



Thursday, May 3, 2018

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Some patients wait in ambulance for an hour at hospital

CONCERN OVER DELAYS AT A&E

Report by Luke Bartlett

NEARLY 300 patients waited more than half an hour in ambulances outside Russells Hall Hospital during March, according to new figures.

A total of 288 people had to wait more than 30 minutes in ambulances outside the Dudley hospital and 35 waited for more than one hour.

Council bosses say Dudley's NHS trust needs to work with West Midlands Ambulance Service and other partners to tackle the problem at the accident and emergency department.

The trust says it has faced a five per cent rise in the number of ambulance attendances compared to the same period last year but it has improved in recent months.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The only way this can move forward is by all the hospitals, the ambulance service and other emergency services getting around a table and talking to each other.

"It needs more planning, more financing and more clear clinical leadership."

Target

So far this year there have been more than 1,400 breaches of the NHS 30-minute ambulance handover target at the hospital. In January 691 patients waited for more than 30 minutes with the figure at 448 in February.

Trust bosses said they have seen progress and had 'outperformed' other trusts in the Black Country on patient handover performance.

Karen Kelly, chief operating officer at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We have seen progress in our handover times, which have significantly improved since December. At times we have outperformed other trusts in the Black Country."

"We have a plan in place to continue to reduce handover times further. We work closely with our colleagues at West Midlands Ambulance Service to make sure that patients who arrive by ambulance at A&E are assessed, treated and handed over as quickly and efficiently as possible."

"The pressure on our emergency services has been consistent throughout the last 12 months. The volume of ambulances were, at times, very challenging."

DJ BOOTH DONATION IS MUSIC TO THEIR EARS



Sycamore Adventure centre manager Keith Rodgers, left, with Clive Watson after the former Goodyear workers' donation. JUNIOR DJs will be hitting the decks in Dudley thanks to a donation of music equipment from a fund supported by factory workers.

A DJ booth has been fitted in the main hall at Sycamore Adventure in Dudley funded by former Goodyear workers. They have also purchased equipment including speakers, headphones and lights for young people to use, as well as CDs.

The donation from the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund will also fund workshops to help the wannabe DJs hone their skills at the youth centre, based at the award-winning Sycamore Adventure play-

ground. The equipment will enable the centre to host monthly discos for children.

Fund chairman Cyril Barrett, who worked at the Wolverhampton tyre factory, said: "This is a lovely project and will give young people interested in music the opportunity to receive training and run their own discos."

TRAFFIC

No stopping order to ease congestion

VEHICLES will be banned from stopping on several busy roads in Dudley in a bid to ease congestion.

Dudley Council has introduced traffic orders which will ban vehicles from waiting at the side of the road. The measure will be brought in at the junction of Dixon Green Road and Bean Road and at the junction of Laurel Road, Limes Road and Meadow Road in Dudley.

Waiting has also been banned on parts of Dudley Road in Wall Heath, near the junction with High Street. The changes are in response to concerns from motorists.

FIRE

Staff evacuated during store blaze

STAFF were evacuated from an Oldbury supermarket after a fire started in the storage area.

Fire crews from Oldbury and Smethwick attended the Co-op store, in Tame Road, at around 4pm on Monday, following two emergency calls.

Five members of staff were evacuated from the store in Kingsway, after the fire is believed to have started in the storage room.

CHURCH

Exhibition is tribute to fallen soldiers

A SOLDIERS of World War One display is being held at All Saints' Church Hall in Vicar Street, Sedgley, on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

It will feature memorabilia and photographs of local soldiers who died in the conflict.

It follows four years of research by genealogist Barbara Price.

INSIDE

GOING CRAZY AT THE GRAND



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Golden day as city plans Wolves party



Danny Bath with the trophy

GOLDEN glory returned to Molineux as Wolves lifted the Championship trophy in front of a roaring home crowd at Molineux.

Thousands of supporters watched the players and manager collect their title-winning silverware at the packed stadium on Saturday.

The players and manager Nuno Espírito Santo were presented with the trophy and medals after Wolves' last home game of the season, a goalless draw with Sheffield Wednesday. It came a week after Wolves officially won the title with an away win at Bolton.

Almost 30,000 fans packed into Molineux and stayed for the presentation, which took place in front of the North Bank stand.

Wolves will celebrate their promotion to the Premier League with an open top bus parade in the city centre and in West Park up to 30,000 fans will greet their heroes at a huge free party on bank Holiday Monday, May 7.

The club are back in the Premier League after a six-year absence and have been locked in talks with council bosses over how to mark the achievement.

The day will start with a private

civic reception hosted by deputy mayor, Councillor Phil Page. Then two open top buses carrying players and staff will set off from Wolverhampton Art Gallery on Lichfield Street at noon.

Fans will line the route as the buses travel through the city to West Park where fans can greet their heroes, with Nuno and the players set to address the crowd and show off the Championship trophy. Celebrations will continue through the afternoon. Supporters will need to choose between street parade or the park event, which will be shown on a giant screen in Queen Square.

Traders in battle to save last bank branch

A PETITION set up by traders in a bid to save Brierley Hill's last town centre bank has more than 1,000 signatures.

The planned closure of Lloyds Bank will leave the High Street with no banks – after HSBC and Barclays branches closed.

Brierley Hill market supervisor Steven Bridgewater started the petition, which has been supported by traders and shoppers. He is planning to present it later this month in a bid to persuade Lloyds bosses into making a U-turn.

Mr Bridgewater, who took over the running of the market in January, said banks and cashpoints are crucial to retail success.

He said: "The market is doing really well as the moment but it seems a shame that the town is going the other way. We need that to get better and the last bank shutting really doesn't help."

"Cash is especially important at the market and if the bank goes then its cashpoint will be going as well."

The final day for the town's Lloyds has been earmarked for July 18. It comes as the bank announced 49 branches will close nationwide with over 300 jobs being lost.

Lloyds were unavailable for comment.

Hundreds join Albion fun day for Richard

'HE touched thousands of hearts at West Bromwich Albion'.

That is how Baggies caretaker boss Darren Moore summed up club star Richard Eades at a fun day held in his memory at Halesowen Town's Grove ground on Sunday.

Big Dave took charge of an Albion Legends XI at the event – just 24 hours after leading the Baggies to their second win under his stewardship. The 1-0 win at Newcastle also bolstered Baggies' hopes of Premier League survival.

Hundreds of people attended the event at The Grove to remember the former Albion mascot, which involved an It's A Knockout style match between football club mascots and culminated in a match between fans' team Boing FC, which Richard used to play for, and the Albion Legends.

Tribute

Darren said: "It was a wonderful tribute for a wonderful man. He touched lots of hearts – thousands of hearts at West Bromwich Albion."

"The fact so many people attended epitomises the person he was. Players, staff, fans and the community, we all turned out to come and support his family for a wonderful cause."

"Richard was a warming, approachable man who would have done anything for you. He would always lend himself to any situation that he was in and nothing was ever too much to ask. He always had a



Mascots with Richard's sister-in-law Debbie Mason, mother Susan, children Archie and Lily, partner Carly and father Arthur

wonderful smile on his face. I was delighted to turn out to support his family."

Richard, from Wednesbury, died in December aged just 42. He worked in various roles at The Hawthorns but is best remembered for his time as mascot 'Albi' – putting on the costume for over a decade from 2007.

The fun day was organised by his pal Dave Challenor, better known as Baggie Bird. The day began with an It's a Knockout-style tournament,

which was won by a team made up of Richard's friends.

Richard's partner of 18 years Carly Evans said: "It was emotional but nice to see so many people turned out for him. It just goes to show that more people out there knew what a great bloke he was."

"He was all for his family and his friends. He would do anything for anybody. And he loved his football. West Brom have been unbelievable, from agreeing to meet the kids and

their support for the fun day."

Among the Baggies stars to attend were former strikers Geoff Horsfield and Andy Johnson. Geoff said: "I think it's a massive amount about Rich, everybody loved him around the club and it just proves that." Andy added: "The lads have done Eadesy proud. The turn-out is a testament to the character of the bloke and to his family and friends. He was a well loved guy around the Black Country."

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Coach pays tribute to club rugby player, 14

DEVASTATED members of Stourbridge Rugby Club have paid tribute to a young player who died last week. Thomas Mole, aged 14, from Wollaston, lost his short but bravely fought battle on Thursday, April 26, leaving parents Simon and Rachel and little sister Poppy.

The Oldswinford Hospital school pupil was a Stourbridge Rugby Club under-14s player and was described by his coaches as a 'true warrior' who would do anything for his teammates.

In a poignant statement on the Stourbridge Rugby Club website, coach Chris Roe said: "Throughout his years with his team mates Tom flourished into a massively physical and combative Number Eight. He was a true warrior and would do anything for his team mates."

The Number 8 will be retired in his honour and replaced with a T. These times shouldn't happen to our kids, but the world can be a cruel place at times.

"The messages of support they have already received from the rugby family both near and far have been truly humbling and these will be of great comfort over the next few months."

Thomas was looked after by staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital and a Just Giving page has just been set up for donations to the hospital in his memory. Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14

Dog mess penalty doubles to £100

A NEW order which penalises dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets has come into force.

The new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) gives Dudley Council officers powers to give out fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.

The fines are up to £100 – double the previous £50.

The order also prohibits dogs in children's play areas, with similar punishment for owners flouting the regulations.

Alan Lunt, strategic director at the council, said: "We believe that introducing the PSPO and its tougher penalties will act as a deterrent for irresponsible dog owners caught not cleaning up after their pets."

Civil war hero talk

A TALK on English Civil War Royalist hero Prince Rupert is being held by Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Service at the archives in Tipton Road tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm. £2.

Ultra effort by friends for charities



Richard Harris, Dan Woodall and Tom Lee-Field tackling the 60-mile run

THREE friends have beaten the grueling Ultra Tour of Arran raising nearly £2,000 for two charities.

Dan Woodall, Rich Harris and Tom Lee-Field, from Stourbridge, took on the 60-mile off-road race over two days.

They battled testing conditions and incredibly rough terrain in order to cross the finish line in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge and the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

So far they have managed to raise more than £1,960 for the Hagley Road hospice and the MNDA.

The trio, in a statement, said: "The challenge itself was split into two days, the south half of the island on day one and the mountainous north half on the second day."

"It was an exhausting challenge that pushed us to the limits but one full of truly stunning scenes at every turn."

"We would just like to say a massive thank you for all the support and sponsorship we have received."

Donations can be made by going to the website, uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/danrichandtomsultratourfaran2018

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planners defer micro bar decision

PLANNING chiefs have deferred an application to transform a shop into a micro bar in Tividale.

Sandwell Council's planning committee deferred a decision until its next meeting when it is to receive further information.

The planning application has been lodged to turn a convenience store into a micro bar at 45 to 47 Regent Road, in Tividale. It would be open between midday and 11.30pm Sunday to Thursday, and midday to 12.30am on Fridays and Saturdays.

Letters of objection have raised concerns about noise, parking, anti-social behaviour and rubbish.

Furniture store is closing down

A WELL-KNOWN Black Country furniture store is closing down.

William & Sons, in Level Street, Brierley Hill, has announced its closure after 21 years.

Managing director William Cole said: "It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I have taken the decision to begin the process of closing down our store. After considering all possible options, we know this is the right course of action."

Mr Cole said the death of his father and an 'extremely challenging' market were factors behind the closure.

Big bash concert as choir turns 21

A CHOIR from Cradley Heath turns 21 this year and will be performing at their very own birthday party to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Members of Voices in Harmony, which has nearly 70 members, have organised a night of music at Dudley Town Hall on May 12 featuring more than 120 singers.

The multi-choir extravaganza will be hosted by Crackerjack's Don McLean and The Gentlemen Songsters, Cola Voce and Viva Musica.

Tickets are available via boroughhalls.co.uk or call (01384) 812812.

£2,000 prize joy for a postcode winner

ONE lucky Dudley household is celebrating their good fortune after winning a double cash prize with the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Limepit Lane winner, using the postcode DY1 3DS, saw the daily prize money doubled to £2,000 on April 24 as they played with two tickets.

Danyl Johnson, People's Postcode Lottery ambassador, said a minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes to charities, including Dudley Mind.



An artist's impression of the scheme that will replace Cavendish House in the town centre



A closer view of the proposed development

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BIRMINGHAM and Black Country Wildlife Trust is recruiting for a part-time senior officer to lead the Salmon in the Stour project.

The project involves restoring the River Stour through the Black Country. The trust is seeking someone with experience of managing projects who is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about river ecology. Closing date for applications is May 11.

Salmon in the Stour is a partnership between the trust, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Severn Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency.

The aim is to see salmon breeding in the catchment headwaters again.

Google bus set to boost digital skills

A BUS is touring the region to give people the opportunity to improve their digital skills and learn from a group of top experts.

The Google Digital Garage bus is part of a programme run by Google and digital inclusion charity Good Things Foundation. It is visiting more than 30 locations including Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Cannock. Visitors can join courses on how to build a CV and social media strategy and the training ranges from beginner to intermediate levels.

The bus is visiting organisations in the Online Centres Network. No booking is required to visit the bus.

Blakemore Retail finalist for award

BLAKEMORE Retail, part of Willenhall-based A F Blakemore & Son is a finalist in the independent retail chain of the year in the 2018 Grocer Gold Awards.

The winners will be announced in London on June 12. Blakemore Retail, which has its head office at Longacres Industrial Estate, Rose Hill, Willenhall, operates 290 Spar stores across England and Wales.

It is the largest independent convenience store operator in the UK.

Club golfers chip in with £700 for cause

GOLFERS chipped in to raise £700 for the Midlands Air Ambulance. Dave Shaw, the 2017 senior captain at Wergs Golf Club, Wolverhampton, handed over the cheque to one of the charity's Staffordshire fundraisers Katie West at a ceremony at the golf club in Keepers Lane. The money was raised by the club's senior section throughout the 2017 golfing season.

Force recruit specials after four year gap

WEST Midlands Police are recruiting volunteer police officers to their Special Constabulary for the first time in four years.

Recruitment opened last week as the force seek to boost numbers to support both day-to-day policing, as well as major events coming to the region in the next few years. It is the force's first step towards getting ready for the Commonwealth Games in 2020 and volunteers will play a huge part in delivering a safe, secure and enjoyable event.

The force is looking to recruit specials and volunteers from all the diverse communities across the West Midlands.

Chris Thurley, assistant director in people and organisation development, said: "Our special constables are a huge part of the West Midlands Police family. Last year they volunteered over 30,000 hours to support the service we offer the public.

"They are integral members of our neighbourhood teams, our front line response teams, helping to support our most vulnerable victims in public protection, force CID, operations, motorway policing – the opportunities are endless. We are looking to increase our number as we gear up for some of the biggest events to be seen in the West Midlands, like Coventry becoming City of Culture in 2021 and, of course, Birmingham hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022."

Mike Rogers, head of special constabulary, a lawyer and property developer, said: "It looks good on the CV, and helps expand and develop your skills." Closing dates for applications is Sunday. Visit jobs.west-midlands.police.uk website.

Teenager attacked partner's ex-boyfriend

A TEENAGER who twice launched unprovoked attacks on his partner's ex-boyfriend has been ordered to pay his victim £2,000 in compensation.

A judge told 19-year-old Luke Rogers: "You thoroughly deserve to go to prison." But he gave him a suspended sentence that saw the defendant compensate Connor Hart for his injuries and for damage to his car.

Rogers, of Bluebell Road, Dudley, was sentenced to a total of 19 months detention for the two attacks, suspended for 18 months and was ordered to carry out 120 hours unpaid work as well as paying Mr Hart.

The first assault took place on May 6 last year when Rogers spotted his partner's ex outside his address and struck him a couple of times through the open window of the victim's vehicle. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Mr Hart suffered a cut to the head while the car was dented and a wing mirror damaged.

The second attack took place a month later, on June 12, following a chance encounter in Dudley. Mr Nicolas Burn, prosecuting, said Rogers punched Mr Hart in the face twice and kicked him to the head three or four times as he lay on the ground.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Rogers was still with the girl who had been the subject of the rivalry. They had a baby and Rogers has since found a job.

He pleaded guilty to two assaults, causing actual bodily harm, and one count of criminal damage. Judge James Burbidge, QC, told Rogers he lacked maturity.

Merger of shops giants is halted

THE merger of the owners of Merry Hill shopping centre and Birmingham's Bull Ring and Grand Central will definitely not go ahead.

Last week the board of shopping centres group Hammerson withdrew its recommendation that its shareholders vote in favour of its all-share offer for Intu Properties. Hammerson's offer was conditional on the approval of its shareholders and Intu has decided there is now no realistic prospect that this condition would be satisfied.

Intu group company secretary Susan Marsden said the board had determined not to proceed.

"The board of Intu is entirely confident of Intu's stand-alone commercial future and prospects," added Mrs Marsden.

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Attacks on ambulance staff are increasing

ATTACKS on ambulance staff in the West Midlands have almost doubled in five years with just 20 per cent of offenders punished.

West Midlands Ambulance Service workers suffered 325 physical assaults in 2017/18, up from 175 in 2012/13.

But of the 1,597 attacks across the six years, just 20 per cent led to police or court action, 324 cases. Civil actions such as warning letters were sent out in 10 per cent of the cases, 158.

The figures have come from union GMB, which has compiled the number of attacks from all ambulance services in the country. They also rose 34 per cent in the five years.

Examples of violent attacks reported by GMB members include being bitten, stabbed and having blood spat at them by drug users.

This came ahead of a vote by MPs on tougher sentences for attacks on emergency workers. The Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill would introduce a new offence of common assault against an emergency worker and require courts to treat attacks on emergency workers as an aggravating factor for sentencing.

A survey by the union of 500 ambulance staff across the UK also found 37 per cent had considered leaving their job due to the threat of violence and 21 per cent had to take sick leave due to violent assaults.

Building skills for women in Dudley

WOMEN interested in working in construction are invited to attend a series of free information sessions taking place in Dudley next month.

Dudley Council's adult learning service is working with the national organisation Women into Construction to run the workshops.

Sessions will run at Castle and Priory Neighbourhood Learning Centre from 10am to 11am and Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre at 1pm to 3pm on May 24 and Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre from 10am to 11am on May 25.

The workshops offer construction related training and access to work placements. Call (01384) 818143, go to www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning or www.women-into-construction.org

Back to the 80s

GET out the legwarmers and neon ware because fans of 1980s music can dance on Saturday, May 12, at the Electric 80s show at the River Rooms in Stourbridge. Tickets cost £8.

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Ball had licence to thrill award-winners



Mayor Dave Tyler and his wife Barbara

A JAMES Bond themed ball and awards night raised more than £4,000 for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The annual Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards was attended by more than 300 people at the Copthorne Hotel, in Brierley Hill.

The themed event, sponsored by Excel 2000 Windows, helped to raise £4,295 which will be split between the Mayor's three charities - Dudley Mind, YMCA Black Country Group and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

A host of businesses, civic dignitaries and community group represent-

atives attended the evening, which featured casino tables, raffle, auction, games and entertainment.

Dudley Mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, said: "I am overjoyed that the ball has raised so much money for my three chosen charities and I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the businesses, sponsors and all who attended the night for making it possible."

"I would also like to thank all our award winners and nominees, they are all amazing people who help to make our borough a better place."

Those winners, who were each presented with a piece of hand-crafted glassware, included snooker star Reanne Evans, Halesowen in Bloom campaigner Eve O'Connor, long-serving special school worker Maureen Smith, fundraiser Gurcharan Bhujangy, and Captain Andy Peters of Dudley's Army Reserve Centre.

Organisations that received awards included Mary Stevens Hospice, who the public voted to receive the Mayor's Pride of Dudley Award, and famous Dudley confectionary business Teddy Gray's got the business prize.

NEWS IN BRIEF

State-of-the-art £644k pitch opens

A £644,000 floodlit 3G pitch at Brierley Hill is being officially opened next week.

The state-of-the-art pitch at the Dell Stadium has been developed thanks to investment from the Premier League, The FA and Sport England.

It will be opened by the Mayor of Dudley on Wednesday at 6.30pm. The evening will continue at 7.30pm with a football match on the new pitch between Wolves All Stars and Dudley Town FC and members of the public are welcome throughout.

Among those to use the pitch are Dudley Town, Gornal Colts and Stourbridge and District Youth League.

Suspected bag snatcher arrested

A WOMAN suspected of trying to snatch three handbags in Dudley has been arrested by police.

Three different women in Dudley town centre were approached on Sunday afternoon (April 22) and had their handbags grabbed but on each occasion a member of the public intervened and saved the victims from having their property stolen.

The incidents were captured on CCTV and the woman was later arrested. The arrest is one of a number made by police in Dudley recently for theft or attempted theft.

Machete thugs in raid on shop

AN ARMED gang threatened a store worker with a machete before beating him up and stealing cigarettes.

Four thugs targeted the Highway Food and Drinks Store in Daisy Street, Coseley.

One of the offenders, carrying the weapon, demanded money from a member of staff. The gang then beat up the terrified worker and punched him several times in the head.

Detectives have launched an investigation into the incident, which took place on Sunday, April 22, at around 6.50pm.

Avanti showroom to open in Oldswinford

AVANTI Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms is unveiling its new Oldswinford showroom today (Thursday).

Avanti, which has its head office in Lye, first opened in 1981 and also has showrooms in Kidderminster, Brierley Hill and Wolverhampton. The new showroom is on Hagley Road and a special by-invitation opening event featured tasting with Avanti's wine expert Karl Gouget and a speech by managing director Lee Capewell.

Closing in on motorists who endanger cyclists

A SAFER driving scheme has rolled out onto the roads in Dudley borough for the first time in the project's two-year history.

Officers from the West Midlands Police Road Harm Reduction unit held the Close Pass scheme in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Undercover officers used a Boardman Hybrid road bike equipped with full HD cameras and walkie-talkies to pick up drivers passing too close to the bike.

But this was more than just a way of dishing out licence points and a fine, say police chiefs, who, with the help of the fire service, instead gave on-the-spot advice to those caught.

A special mat was set up to deliver a lesson to motorists about the distance recommended to keep cyclists safe - which, according to Pc Steve Hudson, is the width of a lorry door.

Pc Hudson said: "It is not about going after drivers and it is not about prosecuting or persecuting. It is about education and driver awareness and cycling awareness.

Behaviour

"Before we started this scheme we spent over two years with cycling groups looking at their behaviour on the road and looking at things that were causing them problems on the road. It is about changing driver behaviour. We want to send that person away thinking 'I am actually now better armed and equipped to deal with a vulnerable road user'.

"I will explain to the motorist that they have passed the cyclist too closely. It is an offence but, instead of sending them away with something that they may not learn from, we want to arm them better to deal with cyclists in the future.

"What generally happens is the longer you drive safely on the road without incident the narrower your field of vision becomes and you become very complacent."

David Viner, from Halesowen Cycling Club, was present to support the scheme. He said: "I think the Close Pass initiative is fantastic. Most motorists overtake cyclists reasonably well but a lot of people just need to be reminded that cyclists do need room on the road."



Pc Mark Hodson, safety officer Peter Swanwick, watch commander Paul Stephens and Pc Steve Hudson



Pc Mark Hodson takes to a cycle to test motorists



A motorbike officer keeps a watchful eye on motorists

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Lighten up, we need our Royal Family for some things

So Prince Louis just what is in a name?

SO Prince Louis it is, then, the latest addition to the Cambridge household. Yes, I know he is named after Louis Mountbatten, the Duke of Edinburgh's uncle murdered by terrorists in 1979, but it doesn't sound right does it? A bit too reminiscent of King Louis XVI of France, perhaps. And things didn't end terribly well for him.

Anyway, I guess that means I will have to wait until next time for one of the Cambridge children to be named with my personal choice, Austin.

Austin Cambridge. A wonderful ring to it, don't you think? ☐ ☐ ☐

THE moment I saw the picture of Sohail Khan, the rapper turned would-be councillor for Tettenhall, I knew this would be entertaining. Whether it's William Hague's baseball cap or Jeremy Corbyn hanging out with grime stars, there is always something cringeworthy about politicians trying to get "down with da kids". And while I am not familiar with Mr Khan's contribution to the music industry, I would be surprised if it were not more Ali G than Iceman.

Now rude-boy Sohail finds himself in hot water after it emerged he posted a picture of a pistol on Facebook in 2012. Councillor Martin Waite says he is "not fit for office" and is "glamourising gun crime". Oh, gerrover yourself, as we say in the Black Country. These people don't half take themselves seriously, don't they?

If Councillor Waite thinks Mr Khan is glamourising anything whatsoever, he probably needs to get out more. While I don't profess to be entirely representative of da yute in da 'hood, I'm fairly sure there are few things less glamorous than local council politics. Mr Khan has probably done more to de-glamourise guns with his Facebook post than the Home Office has managed in decades. Respect, bruv. ☐ ☐ ☐

THERE are few people who cannot have been moved by the tragic last days of Alfie Evans, and you have to sympathise with medical staff who, faced with some thankless and difficult decisions, had to deal with a torrent of unwarranted abuse and intimidation.

That said, while it may be right for highly-skilled medics to refuse treatment they believe is not in the interests of the child, the litigation to stop him going to Italy is something else. The NHS is supposed to be about providing health care, not using the legal system to stop sick children going abroad for care if it is what the parents wish. And the NHS surely has more pressing needs for its funds than hiring expensive lawyers.



Kate – denounced by tabloid for looking "too perfect" as she posed with her baby



Farmer Stephen Nolan won a lot of support for his sign about smelly animals



Master Sergeant Robin Brown sacked after dinosaur hand-puppet incident

But who would plant all those saplings . . .

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THERE was some speculation that William and Kate's little boy who arrived this week might have been overdue and born late. A republican reader asks: "Late for what?" He goes on to say uncharitable things about this privileged little chap being able to look forward to 80 years or more spent doing absolutely nothing of any consequence. Oh, lighten up. If it wasn't for our Royal Family, who would plant all those saplings, watch all that ethnic dancing and draw apart the little curtains to reveal all those plaques?

THE Duchess of Cambridge appears outside the clinic with her newborn prince and is denounced by one tabloid for looking "too perfect." How can normal mums, with no nannies or hairdressers on call, expect to look so lovely? Listen. As any David Icke fan and conspiracy theorist knows, the Windsors are not humans but giant, shape-shifting lizards. We should be thankful that Kate merely looked radiant and did not come down the clinic steps as a rampaging komodo dragon clutching a large egg.

THE BBC describes a breakthrough in laboratory-grown food as "the veggie burger that bleeds when you cut it." Coming soon – mushroom rooms that scream when you peel 'em.

'TIS the season to be painting. As I may have pointed out earlier, some paint names convey little about the colour in the tin. From one leading range we have discovered Overtly Olive, Sophisticated Sage and the deeply enigmatic Wellbeing.

I WAS skinning a brontosaurus outside my cave the other day when the news came in of the TSB online-banking catastrophe. I admit-

ted in this column some months ago that I had never dabbled with internet banking because I have no desire to link my worldly wealth to the dark forest of thieves we call cyberspace. I was promptly denounced by one reader as a cave man. This week I would rather be a cave man than a TSB online banker, thanks.

MY piece on blood-pressure reminds a reader of an appointment with his GP when his pressure readings were a bit high. The doctor suggested he should relax, sit down for 10 minutes and read a newspaper. It was the Daily Mail. As he puts it: "You can guess the rest."

CONFUSING headlines of our time: "Man bitten by shark previously attacked by bear and snake." (Sky News).

I CAME across a brief report that Bill and Sylvia Bennett of Kidderminster have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. It said that Bill spent D-Day, June 6, 1944 on a "secret operation" on the Normandy beaches. There was much more to it than that. I met Bill, 91, on a pilgrimage to Normandy some years ago and his D-Day story was astonishing. For a start he was only 18, a Merchant Navy lad put into Royal Navy uniform for the invasion. Secondly, working under enemy fire on the Pluto undersea pipeline at Gold Beach, he was not given any sort of weapon. Thirdly, having helped a wounded comrade to safety, he got a Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery and good conduct. He

told me: "I don't remember any of us talking about being scared, we just got on with it." All sorts of great deeds were done in the Normandy Campaign but how many D-Day teenagers went ashore without even a gun and ended the day with an award for gallantry? I would not mind betting that Bill Bennett's D-Day was unique. I wish Bill and Sylvia every happiness.

MASTER Sergeant Robin Brown thought he'd enliven the US National Guard oath of allegiance by using a dinosaur hand-puppet to recite the words, Sooty-and-Sweep style. Unsurprisingly, she and two colleagues who took part in the gag have been sacked. What is surprising is that Brown served in the public-affairs office. Despite all the media training, she forgot the first rule of public relations. Wherever you are and whatever you're about to do, just pause, remind yourself that you live in a world where there are no longer any secrets and ask the question: how's this gonna look in the papers?

A LANCASHIRE farmer, Stephen Nolan, has won much support for erecting a sign pointing out that, among other things, farm animals "make funny sounds, smell bad and have sex outdoors." Unless you can tolerate all this, he says, then don't buy a property next to a farm. Which all sounds perfectly reasonable. Except that in my experience when people suddenly start complaining about farm smells it isn't always because they're newly-arrived snowflake townies who can't abide old-fashioned muck. Sometimes they are long-term country dwellers living close to a farmer who's just drenched his fields in pig or poultry slurry, or some other vile-smelling by-product of industrialised agriculture, and is playing the "townie" card rather than doing the decent thing and apologising.

TALKING POINT



We should be spitting mad over vile habit

REGULAR readers will have noticed that this column never shies away from any subject, serious or trivial, but there is one topic that is long overdue – spitting in public.

For whatever reason, there seems to be a creeping acceptability of this revolting habit, whether it be in the street, or open spaces such as parks, and railway station platforms.

Years ago, although smoking was allowed on the upper deck of buses, there was invariably a Spitting Prohibited sign to remind passengers that this was most definitely banned.

Birmingham rock 'n' roller Steve Gibbons even wrote a song, 'No Spitting On The Bus', in which he says boredom and disillusionment can never be used as an excuse.

That was in the 1970s but today there is another factor to consider – aggression. Health service workers are often targeted by spitting yobs for no other reason, it seems, than to get the upper hand.

On the football pitch, spitting is deemed to be one of the most serious misdemeanours when aimed at an opponent, yet many a TV camera has captured instances of phlegm being deposited on the turf, very often in glorious close-up.

Earlier this year while at the wheel of his car ex-footballer Jamie Carragher called on all his spitting 'skills' when goaded by another driver and spat in the direction of a 14-year-old girl. Thanks to the dubious merits of social media, this was viewed hundreds of thousands of times, and yes, if you have not had the misfortune to see the incident, it is as disgusting as you might imagine.

Alongside spitting, there's another custom which seems to be becoming the norm, much more rapidly than spitting, and that is regularly sniffing when a good blow of the nose would cure the problem. What is so very difficult about buying a cheap box of handkerchiefs or pocket tissues and clearing the tubes once and for all?

And then there's coughing into one's 'rolled up' hand, which experts will tell you acts as a blowpipe capable of sending germs flying even further, or worse still not using your hand at all. Much better to cough into your upright palm, which acts as a barrier to flying bacteria.

It's all a matter of education. Over a relatively short time, we have come to accept that dog mess must be picked up, and smoking is no longer permitted in public places, so how about an intense public information campaign?

Perhaps that man Mr Gibbons could write a follow-up titled 'No Spitting . . . Anywhere'. You tell 'em, Steve.

STEVE PARLETT

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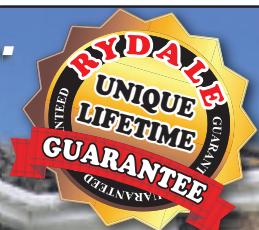
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Venue needs to find a change of use

The Dudley Hippodrome has been the subject of much controversy ever since it closed. Why was it closed?

Because times change and no amount of wishful thinking from a group of well-wishers will change that. I do wish things were different.

Modern entertainment is loud and banal. There are no great comedians these days, foul-mouthed, unshaven trainer-clad per-

sons being the norm, with not a funny bone between them. Musicals seem to be of the Lloyd Webber type and music hall is dead.

Perhaps the Jehovah's Witnesses might take the hall over as an overflow to its magnificent building opposite?

At least the Hippodrome would survive, and that surely is the object of the support group? However, they should hasten along and do something before the building becomes past it.

MR C K MILLWARD

Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Parliament should not be bypassed

ALL civilised countries have seen the dreadful outcome of a chemical attack launched on the innocent people of Syria.

This is not the first time this criminal regime has done this to its own people. These acts of inhumanity can be compared to the worst acts of atrocity in human history.

It is important that our government has the cour-

age to pronounce that those involved will be held accountable for their unforgiveable actions. What we do in response to this murderous act needs the support of the country. Mrs May should not have acted without the support of Parliament, this issue is so important the House needs to approve any actions taken.

JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

So is pocket money cash suspect now?

I WONDER how many more of your readers have been as amazed as I was today?

With two grandchildren living some distance away I hold their building society bank books in order to pay a small amount of pocket money in from time to time.

Their parents are then able to sort out what they wish to buy with this money or to save it for them.

The building society cashier informed me that I cannot pay cash into their accounts at a branch, only the parents can do this and money laundering was mentioned. Well, I for one wouldn't know the first thing about this practice, nor do I want to know.

Whoever thought up this crackpot idea gets my jobsworth vote.

MRS L SHELDON
Dudley

We must be realistic on Hippodrome

I, like Marlene Watson (Chronicle, April 19), would like to see Dudley Hippodrome re-opened, but one has to be realistic. After a couple of pop concerts and maybe a local amateur show, what would fill the theatre for the rest of the year? Television closed the theatre and now home bingo has done the same.

M PARSONS
Brierley Hill

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Hall gardens open in aid of church wall repairs



George Williams on the grounds of his family home, Enville Hall, which will be opening to the public on Sunday

THE glorious gardens at a stately home near Stourbridge will be opening to the public on Sunday to raise funds towards restoration work at a village church.

Enville Hall owners, Peter and Diana Williams, aim to raise at least £1,000 for St Mary's Church after the churchyard's retaining wall collapsed.

Repair work has already begun next to the A458 road.

Rev Martin Soar said: "Peter and Diana are always really supportive of

the church. The funds being raised are fantastic.

"The community of Enville village has always been very supportive alongside Kinver and the Black Country. I am really grateful to everyone who will support the event and it is a lovely time of year to have it."

George Williams, Peter and Diana's son and assistant estate manager, said: "We are hoping to get enough people to help pay off any repairs at the church, which needs roughly £20,000."

The 10 acres of gardens will be open between 1pm and 5pm and refreshments will be available. Admission is £5, under-16s free.



Peter Williams with a rhododendron

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Uncle and aunt will keep siblings together

"IT was an intense decision – but we had to step up and do what we could."

Those are the words of a selfless uncle who moved to the Black Country after a tragic double blow which saw his five nephews orphaned.

Gift Mpedzisi and his partner Ziyanda Mhambi quit their jobs and ended the lease on their home in Liverpool to start a new life in Tipton after Gift's five nephews were orphaned when their mother and father both died from cancer within five weeks of each other.

Sister

Makeda Ubairo – Gift's sister – died in July, with her husband Omena passing away at the start of September from the same disease.

In a heart-breaking video posted online from his hospital bed just days before his death, Mr Ubairo said cancer was the 'toughest thing' he had ever had to face.

It left his sons Khariis, Josiah,

Cairo, Ramiyah and Macaiah facing a future without either of their parents and with the possibility they would be split up and taken into foster care.

But Gift, 33, and his 36-year-old Ziyanda partner decided to do whatever they could to allow the boys to stay together as a family unit.

That involved Gift quitting his degree at university in Liverpool and transferring to a criminology and law course at the University of Wolverhampton.

While Ziyanda, who is now pregnant, also left a full-time job to move south to look after the boys.

The couple have now been honoured with this year's Pride of Tipton award.

Gift explained: "They grew up together as a family. I didn't want them to be split up."

"We had to step up and do what we could. They needed somebody to look after them for their wellbeing and safeguarding."



Ziyanda Mhambi and Gift Mpedzisi with daughter Busi and nephews Khariis, Josiah, Macaiah and Ramiyah

No let up as police target gang members

POLICE officers have vowed not to let up in their fight against violent crime after gang members were jailed for more than 70 years.

A total of 10 people linked to gangs operating across Birmingham and the Black Country were handed jail terms totalling more than 70 years in the past two months.

Jamie Wood, from Wasdale Road, Northfield, who featured in grime videos made by South Birmingham gang the Frankley Killers, is the latest to be locked up after he received almost four years behind bars.

The 23-year-old's sentence comes after Organised Crime and Gang Unit detectives recovered film he had recorded on a mobile phone of a man firing a shotgun at the home of a rival gang member. He did not pull the trigger but was still sent to prison after officers showed that he orchestrated the attack.

Firefight

Earlier this month teenage gunman Yusupha Sarr was locked up for 15 years after being involved in a gangland firefighting on a Smethwick street. The former professional footballer, aged 19 – linked to the Birmingham street gang 23 Drillas – fired a sawn-off shotgun twice as a man armed with a revolver ran towards him, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Armed police were nearby after being warned gang members would be attending an 18th birthday party held in the area and moved in to arrest Sarr, from Church Green in Handsworth, in August last year.

In February Jamael Scarlett and Courtney Farrell were jailed for 16 and nine years, respectively, for possessing firearms and ammunition after detectives uncovered messages linking them with organised crime. Gang members Jamaal Ahmed and Reece Brevitt were also jailed, while a



Yusupha Sarr – fired shotgun

16-year-old boy was sent to a young offenders institute for three years.

Chief Inspector Nick Dale said: "Many of these successes have been in part been thanks to information provided by members of the public who had suspicions about individuals, drug dealing or possession of weapons. They called us in confidence, we acted on what they told us and together we are helping to make communities safer."

"Many of these men were lured into gangs as teenagers. They are sold it as an attractive, lucrative way of life but many now see their lives wrecked by long prison sentences."

"We work with local authorities, support groups and charities to try and divert young people away from crime and gang affiliation but there are those who refuse to cooperate. They face the very real danger of being killed or seriously hurt by rivals or spending many years behind bars."

Vaccinations drive as more than 100 cases of measles confirmed

MORE than 100 cases of measles have been confirmed in the West Midlands prompting a fresh appeal for parents to keep youngsters up to date with vaccinations.

Since the end of October, there has been an ongoing outbreak of the disease, believed to be linked to similar situations in large parts of Europe including Italy and Romania. Public Health England says there is an increased risk of infection for all who are not fully immunised with two doses of MMR.

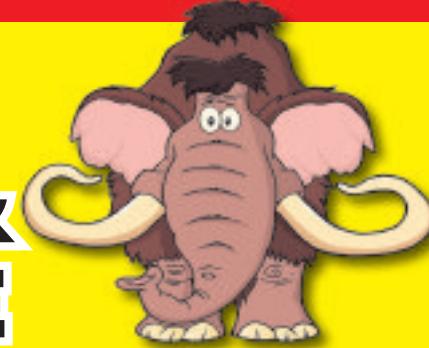
Uptake rates vary from 87 per cent of five-year-olds in Wolverhampton to 91.7 per cent in Staffordshire. While 88.7 per cent of youngsters in Sandwell have received both MMR vaccine doses compared with 89.5 per cent in Walsall and 92.2 per cent in Dudley.

Katie Spence, Director of PHE West Midlands Health Protection Team, said: "There are now just over 100 lab-confirmed cases in the region with figures still rising. There are also outbreaks in other parts of the country, so increased risk of infection for all who are not fully immunised with two doses of MMR.

"Measles is a highly infectious virus which can spread rapidly among communities, such as schools. While most people who catch measles will recover completely within a couple of weeks, it's important to remember measles can be a very serious illness that can leave permanent disability and occasionally even kill."

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Man fined for burying 5,000 tons of waste

A MAN who illegally buried more than 5,000 tons of waste on farmland has been ordered to pay more than £5,000 and told to clear the site.

Ivor David John Powell, 65, was fined £1,000 after pleading guilty to burying 5,335 tons of mixed waste at Lower Aston Farm, Aston Lane, Claverley. The Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution, said the cost of legally disposing of the waste would have been more than £500,000.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Powell, who had no previous convictions, had been 'naive'. The case was heard on April 19 and Powell was ordered to pay £4,000 costs and a £100 victim surcharge, on top of the £1,000 fine. The court told him to clear the site within three years.

Crime commissioner is calling for action to make cars less easy to steal

A RISE in car crime across the West Midlands – from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 crimes a year – has been described 'an epidemic' by a police boss.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson made the comment following a summit with car manufacturers.

He asked bosses from BMW, Ford, Nissan, Jaguar Land Rover, Audi and Honda to increase security for their vehicles. And he hit out at Amazon for listing lock picks on its website.

Speaking at a meeting for the strategic crime and policing board, Mr Jamieson said: "The number of vehicles stolen has doubled over the last two years going from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 per year now."

"It is clear that there is organised crime going on here and it is causing a huge amount of misery. I renewed my insurance on my car and discovered how it has escalated enormously because we're all paying for this. We are now facing an epidemic."

He wants manufacturers to install extra security on keyless devices.

He added: "We are seeing that vehicles are being electronically stolen, stolen within 20 to 30 seconds from people's drives and off they go."

He claims kit used by gangs to open the cars are available on sale online.

"I have called on the Government to bring in a national register, so that only those who need these devices for legitimate reasons can purchase them."

Dr Steffan George from the Master Locksmiths Association is backing Mr Jamieson in his campaign.

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It's child's play for sisters



Jenny Peacock and Claire Hayes with youngsters at the Bridge House in New Road, which the two sisters opened recently to cater for children and their parents

A NEW children's play and learning centre, which also offers pampering for parents, has opened in Stourbridge, launched by two sisters.

The Bridge House opened its doors to families in New Road this month and offers classes and activities for children and parents.

The centre, for youngsters under five, has been opened by sisters Claire Hayes, aged 36, and Jenny Peacock, 27, who previously worked as a paediatric occupational therapist and paediatric speech and language therapist respectively.

Bridge House offers families to chance to play, learn, develop and relax with activities including craft and sensory play workshops, and baby yoga.

Claire said: "The centre is predominantly for children under five. My sister and I have

Businesses in pledge to the young on jobs

Car dealer to expand

BUSINESS leaders have pledged to help young people in the West Midlands get better access to jobs and skills.

Representatives from firms and local government met at the new Prince's Trust centre in Digbeth, Birmingham, to discuss action being taken.

Brendan Cook, head of transformation at HSBC UK, and Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, spoke at the event which was hosted by Nick Stace, UK chief executive of youth charity The Prince's Trust, and Michele Farmer, director of Central England at The Prince's Trust.

The event heard that there are a number of events on the horizon for Birmingham and with more businesses, like HSBC UK, moving their head offices to the city, and commitment behind the 'Midlands Engine' is growing.

The event also marked the renewal of the partnership between HSBC UK and The Prince's Trust, who have worked together since 2012. The charity will now be able to dedicate further resources to supporting young people across the UK to develop employability skills. This funding will also support the trust to trial new ways of helping.

A LYME motor dealership is to expand its showroom to meet growing demand and new models coming out this year.

Startin Honda Stourbridge in Stourbridge Road is to have the work done in the first half of this year to enable it to fit in more vehicles. The Startin Honda business, which also has a site in Worcester, is also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The LYME dealership opened to Honda customers in November 2015, previously hosting Hyundai and Ford franchises.

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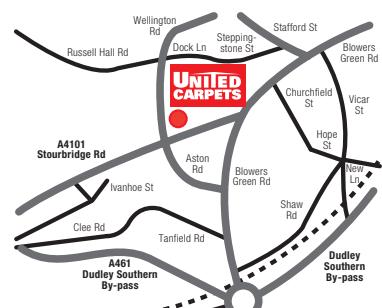
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Plug pulled on outing to Chester

Grange (E) Guild

CHAIRMAN Chris Holton presided over the April 10 meeting at St Peter's Centre, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, and welcomed 27 members and three guests.

She read the minutes from the last meeting which were accepted and duly signed as a true record.

Secretary Sue Wilding reported that unfortunately the outing to Chester had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. She will try to arrange another outing later in the year.

The visit to the Rose Theatre in Kidderminster to see Neighbourhood Watch is booked for May 16. The Federation quiz will be on May 17 and Grange Guild will be entering three teams of four people.

Chris introduced the speaker for the evening, Neil Brazier who gave a talk entitled "Where does a Travel Agent go on holiday?". He gave a guided tour of Turkey, his favourite place. A slide show gave members a very picturesque view and was enjoyed by all. Chris gave the vote of thanks to Neil on members' behalf.

To celebrate Easter hot cross buns were served and the raffle was drawn with three lucky winners. The sales table, which had an Easter theme did very well.

The next meeting will be held at St Peter's Centre on May 8 when Max Keen will give a talk about the history of Dudley Castle. The sales table will consist of biscuits and confectionery.



Craig Denston with Wendy Meredith and June Weaver

Max keen on giving castle talk

CHAIRMAN Geoff Longmore opened the meeting, giving details of the summer programme.

Speaker Max Keen, a retired Amblecote Primary teacher, gave a talk on Dudley Castle 1071-1933. He dressed as Ansulf de Piquigny, a French baron who followed William the Conqueror to England and played a significant role in the invasion of England.

He was awarded some 80 manors spread over 11 counties and in 1070 was granted

Amblecote History Society

lands in the West Midlands, including Dudley, where he built the castle.

On May 9, Andrew Lound and actress Penelope Ferguson will carry out a dramatic performance telling the story of the Great War through the eyes of generic soldier Tommy Atkins, from a series of letters written to his wife Alice.

Dudley South Ladies Lunch

MEMBERS were pleased to welcome back chairman Ann Rogers following the loss of her husband Michael. It was good to have a record attendance of 39 members, visitor Dawn Hampton and new member Betty Ross to enjoy an excellent three-course lunch and hear speaker Craig Denston on "Life as a Ghost".

Mr Denston was an actor who also conducted Ghost Tours at Dudley Castle. He showed slides of strange apparitions photographed in the cellars of the Station Hotel, Dudley as well as in the castle. The Ghost Tours started back in 1993 and continue today.

It was a most thought-provoking afternoon. Meetings are on the second Friday each month at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley, at 12.30pm.

At the next meeting on May 11 the St Andrews Singers will entertain and on June 8 the speaker will be John Evans on "Diamonds are the Queen's Best Friend". A visit to Hagley Hall has been arranged on July 18.

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Lakes look at driverless pods

SELF-DRIVING vehicles made in Dudley are being considered as a sustainable transport alternative for the Lake District.

A driverless 'pod' made by Kingswinford's Westfield Technology Group has been taken to Brockhole, between Ambleside and Windermere, as part of an exercise to gain public feedback.

The Lake District National Park is the first national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site to take part in such a feasibility study with Westfield.

The national park is exploring new technologies which allow people to access the national park in an environmentally sustainable way.

Business bosses are concerned at proposal for travellers site

BOSSES have spoken out against plans to build a £280,000 travellers transit site near their firms.

Dudley Council proposals would see the official travellers site created on Budden Road in Coseley, to help lower the number of illegal encampments. But the director of a neighbouring steel fabricating firm has said he was 'appalled'.

David Springthorpe, managing director of Angle Ring, said: "I am absolutely appalled that

as an immediate neighbour to the site we were not notified directly by Dudley Council about the planning application.

"I am certain that if as a company we applied for planning permission, and more than 50 local residents objected, then our planning application would be rejected."

Chris Hickman, director of South Staffordshire Industries, said: "The site does not satisfy Dudley Council's own selection criteria for a temporary travellers site. Their guidelines clearly state 'sites on the edge of industrial or

residential areas are preferred to sites in the middle of such areas' and the proposed site in Budden Road is surrounded by residential and commercial properties.

"During the mid-1990s we suffered increased crime and other issues when the site was used illegally by travellers and we certainly don't want a repeat of those events."

Dudley Council's Alan Lunt, a strategic director, said the council had been 'open and transparent' about plans to establish a transit site.

Cars targeted by thieves in flood

YOUTHS were spotted by firefighters trying to break into vehicles stranded in the severe flooding in Wednesbury last week.

It took place as crews worked to ensure people were safe as water levels rose due to the dramatic water main burst in Leabrook Road.

There were also reports of children throwing stones into the floodwater, close to where firefighters were working.

Around 60 firefighters, including specialist water rescue teams, rushed to the scene at around 10am on Thursday. Around 10 million litres of water – the same as four Olympic-sized swimming pools – turned streets into a lake up to 9ft deep after Western Power Distribution workers damaged the mains.

Dan the banjo man has folk club gig



Banjo man Dan Walsh is coming to Kingswinford

ACCLAIMED banjo man Dan Walsh is coming to a Kingswinford folk club as part of a mammoth tour promoting the release of his *Verging On The Perpendicular* album.

BBC Folk Awards nominee Walsh's UK tour will see the launch of the all new Dan Walsh Trio – featuring award-winning fiddler Ciaran Algar and long-time collaborator Nic Zuppardi on mandolin.

Although favourites the Stafford musician's highly-praised albums will be in the set, the gigs are to be mostly shaped around new material. At the heart of the trio's sound is British, Irish and American folk music delivered with a healthy dose of funky grooves.

Lively

Next Friday, May 11, he will be at the Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford. The show is at 8.30pm and tickets cost £8/£9. Call (01384) 560462 or go to www.woodmanfolk.co.uk for tickets and details.

"It'll be a very lively show with lots of blistering tunes but also some more reflective moments and some new songs we're really pleased with," says Dan.

"I've been travelling all over this year and I spent the first two and a half months of the year on tour in Australia and New Zealand. It'll be great to be back home."

Concerns raised over plans for new homes

CAMPAIGNERS fear disruption caused by new homes being built on sites in Tipton will impact people's quality of life.

Plans were backed recently by Sandwell Council for dozens of homes on three parcels of land in Princes End. But concerns were raised about the scheme with people claiming there has been a lack of consultation.

Councillors say the new homes are much needed in the area.

In total, 63 homes will be built on council-owned sites bordered by Strathmore Road, Kingsbury Road, Sandgate Road, Ridgeway Road and Henn Street.

One piece of land was the site of Swancroft House and another was Glebefields House, both facilities for the elderly. These have both been cleared. The third site was grassed open space.

A decision will be made by the full council.

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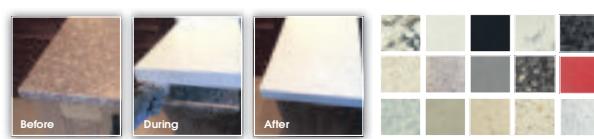
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Ted seen with his wife Linda in the countryside



Ted and Simon at Abbey Road Studios in London



Ted with fellow redcoats at Butlins in the 1970s



Ted performs on stage in 1975

Son's book is poignant tale of Ted the singer



The famous video clip of the carpool karaoke session **SINGALONG** sensation Ted McDermott took the internet by storm when he and his son Simon sang carpool karaoke to millions online.

The Black Country-born pensioner, aged 80, lives with dementia but music helps him get back to his old self.

Now Simon, 42, has released a book about his dad's life in the 1940s as the eldest of 14 children in Friar Park, Wednesbury. The Songaminute Man, which was published this month, is a nostalgic memoir and heart-breaking account of a son struggling to come to terms with his father's dementia.

Everything changed for the pair when Simon turned the ignition on in his mother's car, hitting play on his father's favourite song Quando Quando Quando and they were driving around Blackburn - where they live now - singing at the top of their voices.

Simon filmed their adventure, uploaded the video to YouTube and woke up to messages, tweets and his phone ringing off the hook.

But despite landing a record deal, a Pride of Britain award, more than £130,000 raised for The Alzheimer's Society and a top 10 single, Simon was still 'losing' Ted.

He said: "I wanted to tell our story of dementia. We had a bad few years with dad's aggression and violence after he was diagnosed. I also wanted to write about how it affects the carers."

Set in the heart of the Black Country just before the Second World War, and written with the help of Ted's friends and family, The Songaminute Man recalls a boy who became a gutsy and fiercely loyal man.

It recalls a childhood of sleeping top-to-toe, rationing, adventure in the woods

By Tom Oakley

and making-do-and-mending, a close-knit community, and a life-long passion for music. It is a celebration of the man Ted was, and a powerful and moving account of caring for a loved one. Simon added: "I didn't just want to write about dad and his dementia. It was important for me to tell his full story."

Ted was a performer throughout his life - he was a Butlin's Redcoat and then travelling around the country singing in clubs.

Simon said: "He worked in factories, but did promotions at Walsall football club and then gigging with Midlands group The Starliners. I interviewed his old bandmate Ben Beards who lives in Bilton.

"I decided to write his entire life story to basically show who he was, where he came from, his hopes and fears, passions and loves before the Alzheimer's struck. I guess the book is also my own personal therapy, you could say Alzheimer's took dad away but it also brought him back in that it gave me the opportunity to discover who he really was and what made him tick. The only tragedy is that he will never truly understand how many fans he has."

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Labour

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Cllr Pete Lowe, Leader of Dudley Labour Group Flying the Black Country Flag with pride



We have a great Borough. We are the Borough that lit the fires of the Industrial Revolution and we continue to make a huge contribution to the West Midlands.

We need a council and local councillors that will work hard and look after the interests of all our communities.

A Labour Council in Dudley will continue to build on the success when we were last in control such as securing the metro, regenerating our

towns, making education and skills the number one priority and continuing to support our fantastic tourist attractions which are some of the best in the West Midlands to attract more visitors and stimulate the economy.

Our community led Labour Council will put you as residents at the heart of everything we do and won't let you down like the Tories and UKIP have.

A Clear Vision for Our Borough

A Labour Council will;

■ **REGENERATION AND TOURISM** Promote Dudley Borough as the historic capital of the Black Country to increase tourism and create jobs, including retaining all existing free parking and introducing free evening parking to boost the night time economy.

■ **ENVIRONMENT** Make full use of powers to enforce action against those who affect the quality of our environment, including fly tipping, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour and reinvest fines collected back into improving our streets.

■ **HOUSING** Take tough action against rogue landlords who put profit before people, increase social and affordable housing and implement the Housing First initiative in our communities to address the issues of homelessness and rough sleeping.

■ **WASTE COLLECTIONS** Retain weekly bin collections and free green waste collections and continue to increase the amount we recycle, protecting the environment for future generations.

■ **EDUCATION AND SKILLS** Establish Dudley as a centre of excellence for business, education and skills for all ages. We will also ensure all large contractors used by Dudley Council provide apprenticeships for young people.

■ **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** Ensure health and social care providers adopt a joined up approach, providing support to whole communities, especially the most vulnerable, when needed.

■ **ROAD INVESTMENT** Establish and monitor a pot-hole reporting line and use available funds to repair speedily while lobbying for a fairer funding deal that will bring much needed investment to Dudley's crumbling road network.

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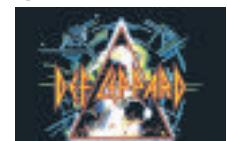
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We're Crazy For an all-dancing musical

You can't beat glorious Gershwin, and the composer has no greater fan than Tom Chambers, who's fulfilling a teenage dream by starring in the musical *Crazy For You*.

By the time the curtain came down on a production of *Crazy For You* in the early 1990s, the then-15-year-old Tom Chambers knew his heart lay in performing. "It was the very first live musical I ever saw on stage and it just filled me with so much entertainment and wonder. It was amazing to see what they did with the theatre space and how the story was told. It was the only bit of theatre which truly inspired me."

In a career which has featured a number of crazy twists of fate as well as some fantastic roles, Tom is relishing the chance to recapture that teenage dream and play the lead role in the production, which plays Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday until May 12.

He plays Bobby, a banker sent to close down a failing theatre who falls for the daughter of the building's proprietor. Determined to win her heart, he adopts the guise of a Hungarian impresario in order to save the theatre and win her heart.

And so, the stage is set for an all-singing, all-dancing story set to a Gershwin soundtrack which includes the likes of *They Can't Take That Away From Me*, *Bidin' My Time* and, of course, *I've Got Rhythm*.

Tom admits he always had a bit of a performing instinct from rattling his feet on the kitchen floor at home from a very young age, and then enjoying watching black-and-white films starring the likes of Gene Kelly. But it was a school play that saw him tread the boards for the first time.

He laughs: "I was playing football during a school break and the English teacher, who was directing the play, said no-one had auditioned for it so there was a compulsory three o'clock audition. I ended up getting the title role in *Dracula Spectacular*. I loved that relationship recognition between the audience and I. It was fantastic making them respond."

Drama school followed which included a stint understudying Keith Chegwin in the pantomime *Cinderella* at Basingstoke ("It is one of my claims to fame"), and his first job after leaving was a Spanish TV ad for Kit Kat. Tom says: "I thought this is great. I am going to get non-stop work," but things did not quite work out like that. He had to turn down a role in *The Bill* because they needed an HGV driver although Tom has now got his Class One lorry-driving licence in common with Chris Eubank.

And when he turned down a role in the tour of *Bob The Builder*, his agent fired him leaving him in a quandary about what to do next. He enjoyed some success with the movie *Fakers* which was privately financed and enjoyed a limited cinema release but the work was drying up.

So, he took one final shot at success by aiming to get onto the Royal Variety Performance in the days before Britain's Got Talent and YouTube. He said: "I wrote a letter suggesting I do a Fred Astaire routine on a drum kit and I thought that might appeal, with me tap dancing and kicking drums at the same time. They said get it ready and I spent nine-and-a-half months doing just that. A

Putting on the glitz – Claire Sweeney and Tom Chambers



few weeks beforehand, they then got in touch and said we now have everyone we need. We don't want you, which was a blow.

"So I got in touch with my old school and asked if I could perform it on their stage in the holidays and I got it filmed in black and white. I had 1,000 DVDs made of it sending 400 to America and sent 600 out in this country to theatre owners, directors and TV producers asking if they were doing anything connected to Fred Astaire and, if so, could I have a chat?"

Only two people came back. One was a theatre producer organising a one-night Fred and Ginger tribute, while Tom said the other was an audition for BBC medical drama *Holby City*. "The producers just thought it was so unusual. They were looking for someone to play an American doctor for two episodes. As Fred Astaire was American, they thought I was too and wanted to get me in. I went to the audition and they said 'where have you been all these years?'

From there he won the part of Sam Strachan in the hit sister show to *Casualty* staying in the role for three years as the fiercely-driven doctor who also had a bit of a roving eye.

And it was his role on there that led him into Strictly Come Dancing where he partnered Camilla Dallerup, winning the coveted glitterball. Looking back on his time on the Saturday night TV hit, he admits a lot of it is a blur. Tom explains: "People ask if I can do a quick step or a samba. I have to explain that I had a five-day intense workout on each of those routines. It is such a quick short-term memory injection and that is

Bit like Strictly with everything slotting into place in the right order

it. It was a bit like doing a marathon. You do step-by-step doing a couple of miles at a time and you look back and you don't know how you did it. It is the same with Strictly. Your body naturally gets used to physical exertion and a daily workout but it is the brain that suffers most because of trepidation, fear and anxiety. You are just learning so much. You just go in front of the cameras and the audience and give it your all. I look back now. If I watch anything online of one of our dances, I am looking at it as if I am watching someone else. At the time, you are performing, your brain is just in flight mode."

And now it is *Crazy For You* which is set to take up the rest of his year. "I think *Crazy For You* has the absolutely perfect balance of humour, story and singing. There are so many musicals that are heavy on just one element but this show has the perfect combination of everything. It is a bit like the show dance on Strictly with everything slotting into place in the right order." ANDY RICHARDSON

• For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Singer-songwriter Don McLean



My my it's Mr American Pie at Symphony Hall

PROLIFIC American songwriter Don McLean will visit Birmingham's Symphony Hall next Thursday, May 10, as part of a 14-date UK tour with Nashville star, Jarrod Dickenson.

The show follows the release of McLean's new album 'Botanical Gardens' in March.

With more than 40 gold and platinum records worldwide, Don McLean is one of America's most beloved singer-songwriters. Botanical Gardens, his 19th studio album and first in eight years, is arguably one of his most reflective to date.

Don says: "The inspiration for the project started years ago when I would walk in the beautiful gardens in Sydney, Australia, near the Opera House. I would dream young dreams and it was a comfort and an

inspiration. I was always young inside, like we all are, and I felt it again there."

In nearly 50 years on the scene, Don's songs have become a staple in Americana music. His music has been performed by artists as diverse as Elvis Presley, Madonna, Fred Astaire, Chet Atkins, Weird Al Yankovic, George Michael, Josh Groban, Coolio and Ed Sheeran. His biggest hit 'American Pie' was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2003.

Joining Don on tour by request is Jarrod Dickenson. The Nashville-based, Texas-born musician has already supported acts ranging from Bonnie Raitt to The Stylistics, and he counts himself among McLean's fans, saying: "His contribution to popular music and the craft of song writing can't be overstated."

McIntyre is making merry on world tour

He's become one of the most popular British comics of all time.

Michael McIntyre will return to Birmingham for his latest run of shows – Big World Tour – with dates at the city's Arena from next Thursday, May 10, to May 13.

The star has already sold more than 1.5 million tickets in the UK.

By 2012 he was the highest grossing comedian in the world and, in addition to stand-up, has hosted his own BBC One TV shows, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Michael McIntyre's Big Show, has featured in 'Live at

the Apollo and, in 2011, was a judge on Britain's Got Talent.

He is looking forward to getting back on stage. "I'm so excited about it. Stand-up comedy is what I do, and it's so rewarding," he says. "If you write a joke and tell it to an audience of 15,000 people who laugh their heads off at it, it's the best feeling in the world."

"This is comedy. We are trying to make people laugh here. So, let's be really silly for two hours. That's where I come in.

"My show is about silliness and exaggerated stories. I like jokes where people don't stop laughing. I want that all the time."



"I don't just like to use punchlines anymore, especially in arenas. They freak me out. There is nothing worse than 15,000 people waiting for a punchline. You're standing there thinking, 'I hope I remember the punchline.' But once you start to think that, you immediately forget it."

"I prefer getting into that sense of rolling laughter. When you get that right, there's no better feeling. I used to be daunted by the prospect of performing in an arena. But having played so many arenas now, I can see that there is something rather magical about them."

Love Always a success for Shane

Westlife singer Shane Filan is back, fresh from the success of his hugely successful Love Always tour in autumn 2017 and will be in concert at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday. Shane says: "Birmingham has such an amazing crowd, I just had to perform here again. In fact, the whole tour went so well I thought I would love to take it back out. It was such fun and the fans have taken Love Always to their hearts. I may be adding a few surprises to make this leg a little different."



Joe's mischief makes his tour a comedy hit

With sell out nights across the country it's safe to say that Birmingham comic Joe Lycett's latest tour – splendidly named I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett – is a huge success. His laconic skewering of pomposity and humourless officialdom via email battles has certainly struck a chord. The Hall Green comedian can expect a warm home welcome at the New Alexandra Theatre on May 10 and 11, before returning to his home region at a sold out Dudley Town Hall on September 7. He has additional dates on November 12 and 27 at Symphony Hall and Wolverhampton's Aldersley Leisure Village on November 26. There is comedy this week with those Grumpy Old Women – Jenny Eclair, Dillie Keane and Lizzie Roper – on Wednesday, May 9, at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

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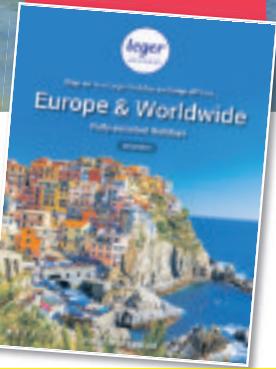
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CHOICE



Alice Roberts

Britain's Most Historic Towns

(Channel 4, 8pm)

Alice Roberts tells the story of the Regency period by studying the history of Cheltenham, Britain's most Regency town. She attends a period society ball, investigates the rigid social hierarchy of the age and explores the Regency fondness for enemas. The penultimate episode of the series in which Alice Roberts studies one key period in history by delving into the secrets of a historic town that encapsulates the era, providing an accurate impression of what life was really like at key moments in the turbulent past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News.** **2.15 Live Snooker:** The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion. **4.10 BBC News.** **4.20 Regional Programme.** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 Live Women's FA Cup Football:** Arsenal Women v Chelsea Ladies (kick-off 5.30pm). **7.40 Pointless Celebrities:** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous children's TV presenters take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. The contestants are Timmy Mallett, Bernard Cribbins, Andy Crane, Jenny Hanley, Michaela Strachan, Janet Ellis, JB Gill and Cat Sandion. **8.30 Who Dares Wins:** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. **9.15 Casualty:** Connie Beauchamp returns and wastes no time in reasserting her authority, taking over the care of a patient in resus and pitching her idea for a trauma theatre to a sceptical Charlie. Ethan visits the spot where Cal died to pay his respects, and he unexpectedly sees Leigh-Anne – the girlfriend of his brother's murderer. A number of staff members come in to work hungover following a housewarming party at Alicia's new house. **10.05 BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.25 Match of the Day:** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. **11.45 The Button:** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R) **12.15 Film:** When in Rome. (2009) **1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.45 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.** (R) **7.10 The Pets Factor.** **7.30 The Denegeers.** **8.00 Absolute Genius:** Monster Builds. **8.30 Beyond Bionic.** **9.00 Robot Wars.** **10.00 Live Snooker:** The World Championship. **1.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** (R) **2.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** (R) **4.10 Live Snooker:** The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion. **6.00 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes:** Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and property enthusiast Caroline Quentin explore extraordinary homes built in mountain, forest, coastal and underground locations around the world, meeting the owners and architects brave enough to take the challenges on. **7.00 Dad's Army:** A land mine cuts off all power and communications services in Walmington-on-Sea, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the challenge by declaring martial law – while Pike gets stuck on some iron railings. Vintage comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R) **7.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship:** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. Barry Hawkins has been one of the most consistent performers at the Crucible in recent years, reaching the final in 2013 and the semi-finals on three other occasions, although The Hawk lost at this stage in 2017 to four-time champion John Higgins. **10.00 Film: Kajaki.** (2014) A group of paratroopers are pushed to their limits while trying to find a safe route out of a minefield in Afghanistan. Fact-based thriller, starring David Elliot. **11.40 Michael Palin: A Life on Screen:** The actor and writer looks back on his career. Featuring classic clips from the archives and contributions from collaborators John Cleese, David Jason and Armando Iannucci. (R) **12.40 Film:** Easy Money II. (2012) **2.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruenes Kids.** (R) **6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruenes Kids.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Super 4.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00 Super Warr: Freemaker Adventures.** (R) **7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show.** (R) **7.30 Teen Titans Go!** (R) **7.45 Adventure Time.** (R) **8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Zorb Ball.** **9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** **11.20 Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** (R) **12.20 ITV News:** Weather. **12.30 This Time Next Year.** (R) **1.30 ITV Racing:** Live from Newmarket. Including the 3.35 Qipco 2,000 Guineas Stakes. **4.00 Tipping Point.** (R) **5.00 The Chase.** (R) **6.00 ITV News:** Weather. **6.15 Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.30 Ninja Warrior UK:** Gethin Jones, Jenni Falconer and Josh Cuthbert test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. **7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule:** Jordan Stephens, Janet Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show. **8.00 Britain's Got Talent:** Ant and Dec host the fourth audition round of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. Whomever the quartet choose to send through to the live stages will then be in with a chance of winning a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance later this year, following in the footsteps of 2017 winner Tokio Myers. **9.15 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** New series. Jeremy Clarkson hosts the first in a special week-long revival of the quiz celebrating its 20th anniversary, with contestants answering questions to win up to £1 million. **10.20 ITV News:** Weather. **10.35 Film: Sex and the City 2.** (2010) Comedy sequel, with Sarah Jessica Parker and Kristin Davis. **1.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Babushka.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: British GT. **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.35 The King of Queens.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** (R) **3.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** (R) **4.30 Collection Hunters.** **5.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 The Restoration Man: Best Builds.** George Clarke looks back at four of the most dramatic tower conversions from the show. A pair of railway enthusiasts took on a derelict water tower on the Settle to Carlisle line, while a couple battled illness to turn a Georgian windmill into a family home. There's also another chance to see how a 17th-century fortified structure in Scotland and a Grade II-listed water tower near Congleton in Cheshire were transformed. (R) **8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns:** Alice Roberts tells the story of the Regency period by studying the history of Cheltenham, Britain's most Regency town, investigating the rigid social hierarchy of the age. **9.00 Film: Zoolander 2.** (2016) Premiere. Dim-witted supermodels Derek Zoolander and Hansel McDonald must step back into the spotlight and save the day when a maniacal villain starts murdering some of the world's most beautiful pop stars. Comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, with Penelope Cruz, Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig. **11.00 Film: Ride Along.** (2014) A wannabe police officer persuades his girlfriend's tough detective brother to take him along on duty. The cop hopes to scare his unwanted partner away from his sister by exposing him to danger – but needs some help when the patrol leads to a run-in with the city's most wanted criminal. Comedy, starring Ice Cube, Kevin Hart and Laurence Fishburne. **12.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares.** (R) **1.40 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.50 Come Dine Champion of Champions.** (R)

SATURDAY'S TV MAY 5

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.40 The Gadget Show.** (R) **11.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.25 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **3.20 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **4.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** (R) **5.20 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords.** (R) **6.15 5 News Weekend.** **6.20 Rich House, Poor House:** Colin and Lizzy Whiting, who find themselves in the wealthiest 10 percent of Britain, swap their five-bedroom house near Newquay to spend a week living in a two-bed property where the Timmins family live. The Timmins on the other hand, are among the poorest 10 percent in the country, and are saving on a tenth of the weekly budget the Withings have. (R) **7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** In east London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R) **8.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Paul Bohil and Phil Short must deal with a negligent tenant who fled upon their arrival, forcing the agents to set a trap in order to evict him. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Kevin Stokes chase a debt of £5,000 in Kent, before heading to Surrey to recover £11,000 owed by the owner a bespoke furniture business. Plus, Paul and Steve Pinner's patience is tested to the limit when they are sent to carry out an eviction in London. (R) **9.15 Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures:** The origins of the Egyptian pharaoh's iconic death mask, examining theories that many of the items he was buried with were hurriedly assembled after his unexpected death. **10.10 The Great Ramesses: New Evidence Revealed:** New series. Series exploring famous people and places of ancient Egypt, beginning with Ramesses II, who led his people to victory against the Hittites and was declared a living god. **11.10 Football on 5: Last Day of the Season:** Colin Murray introduces highlights. **12.10 SuperCasino.** **4.00 Billionaire Babies:** 24 Carat Kids. (R) **4.00 Close**

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00 Nature's Epic Journeys** **8.00 Wild Burma:** Nature's Blood Diamonds **10.35 Land of the Lost Wolves** **11.35 Top of the Pops:** 1985 **12.05 An Evening with Glen Campbell** **12.25 Nature's Epic Journeys** **2.25 Wild Burma:** Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.25 Close** **ITV2** **11.35 Britain's Got More Talent** **12.35 Ninja Warrior UK** **1.40 Film:** Babe (1995) **2.40 Film: Daffy 2.45 Film:** Babe (1995) **3.30 Film:** Twister (1996) **4.30 FYI Daily** **4.35 Film:** Twister (1996) **5.40 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **6.40 FYI Daily** **6.45 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **9.15 Britain's Got More Talent** **10.15 Celebrity Juice** **11.05 Family Guy** **12.30 American Dad!** **1.30 Plebs** **1.55 CelebAbility** **2.40 Totally Bonkers** **Guinness World Records** **2.50 Teleshopping** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen** **ITV3** **11.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **1.00 Film:** Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder (1978) **3.00 Film:** Casablanca (1942) **5.00 Midsomer Murders** **11.05 Vera** **1.05 Stephen Fry's Key to the City** **2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping** **ITV4** **11.20 Cycling** **11.55 Cycling:** Tour de Yorkshire **1.00 Cycling:** Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the third stage of the men's race from Richmond to Scarborough. **6.00 Pawn Stars** **7.00 The Motorbike Show** **8.00 Cycling:** Tour de Yorkshire **9.00 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.00 FYI Daily** **10.05 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.45 Film:** The Fugitive (1993) **12.45 FYI Daily** **12.50 Film:** The Fugitive (1993) **2.20 The Protectors** **2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping** **E4** **12.00 The Goldbergs** **2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **3.00 Young Sheldon** **3.30 Film:** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **5.30 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** The Transporter (2002) **10.50 Gogglebox** **11.55 The Inbetweeners** **1.00 Tattoo Fixers** **2.05 Rude Tube** **3.05 Gogglebox** **4.00 How I Met Your Mother** **4.45 Rude(tish) Tube** **Film4** **11.00 Magic in the Water** (1995) **1.00 Anastasia** (1997) **2.55 Arriety** (2010) **4.50 Home Alone** (1990) **6.55 Taxi** (2004) **9.00 Crimson Peak** (2015) **11.15 Goat** (2016) **1.20 Shutter Island** (2010) **4.00 Close**

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CHOICE



Liam Charles (right)

Bake Off: The Professionals (Channel 4, 8pm)

New series. Professional duos from across the UK go head to head, aiming to impress judges and celebrated pastry chefs Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin, and progress to the next round. In the first episode, the teams must finely craft two batches of uniform miniature classics - 24 conversations and 24 tarts aux fruits - in just three and a half hours. This is followed by the Showpiece, in which a reinvention of the Black Forest gateau is required in five hours. Presented by former Bake Off contestant Liam Charles and comedian Tom Allen.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Britain's Best Home Cook. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme. **6.00** **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the final from Chatham's historic dockyards, where the artists must paint a self-portrait for their final challenge. The finalists then receive individual masterclasses in the areas coaches Diana Ali and Pascal Anson feel they need help, which involves everything from painting with rollers to working blindfolded. In the final round, the contestants have a free hand to paint whatever they choose to impress judges Daphne Todd and Lachlan Goudie, before one of them is named this year's winner. **7.00** **Countryfile.** Anita Rani is put through her paces with a Mountain Rescue team in Rothbury, Northumberland, hearing how new technology is helping search-and-rescue operations in the local area. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, where experts examine a medieval sword found in a pond, an Indian jewel and a collection of decorative boxes. **9.00** **The Woman in White.** Marian overhead Percival and Fosco conspiring to seize Laura's inheritance after her death. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of Manchester City v Huddersfield Town, Arsenal v Burnley and Chelsea v Liverpool. **11.35** **Reggie Yates: Life and Death in Chicago.** The broadcaster travels to Chicago to investigate gun crime in President Obama's adopted hometown to find out why so many of the victims are young African-American men. (R) **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **6.35** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.20** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.50** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.00** MOTD2 Extra. **12.30** Badminton Horse Trials. Coverage of the fifth and final day of the event. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championships. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre. **5.30** Badminton Horse Trials. Further coverage of the fifth and final day of the event. **6.00** **Athletics: Diamond League Doha Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from the opening Diamond League event of the season, held at the Hamad Bin Suhaim Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The women's 100m was scheduled to feature Olympic champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, along with Dutch 200m world champion Dafne Schippers. **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. John Higgins looked set to open up an imposing lead over Mark Selby during the second session of last year's final, but the Jester from Leicester took the last three frames of the evening to trail 10-7 heading into the final day. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry, along with Alan McManus and John Virgo. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **11.00** Famalam. Comedy sketch show. **11.20** **Live at the Apollo.** Henning Wehn hosts tonight's show, which features performances from Lucy Porter and Guz Khan. (R) **12.05** Film: Easy Money III: Life Deluxe. (2013) A criminal searches for his missing sister, while another prepares for the biggest heist of his career. Crime thriller sequel, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Matias Varela. **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from St Albans, Hertfordshire, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R) **3.05** Holby City. Fletch clashes with Abigail. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two. **12.15** The Royal Wives of Windsor. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruenes Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruenes Kids. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) **7.50** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** The Super 4. (R) **9.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zon Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Pest on Sunday. **11.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.15** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Including the 3.35 Qipco 1000 Guineas Stakes. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Jordan Stephens, Jane Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show. (R) **6.30** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **7.00** **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring a street dance crew, a nine-year-old boy who knows everything there is to know about Eurovision, and a world champion hen racer. **8.00** **The Durrells.** The family meets a travelling circus. Larry falls in love with a contortionist, while Margo takes to the ring in person to perform a very dangerous act. Last in the series. **9.00** **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Jeremy Clarkson hosts the second edition in a special revival of the quiz to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Six more contestants compete in Fastest Finger First, to see who will sit in the hot seat and have the chance to take home the £1 million jackpot. As always, the players have three lifelines – Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50-50 – at their disposal. **10.05** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine. (R) **11.20** **The Royal Wives of Windsor.** Part one of two. Documentary exploring how the women who have married into the house of Windsor over the last century have transformed one of the most famous dynasties in the world. (R) **12.15** The Royal Wives of Windsor. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.40** MSA British Rally Championship. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Eat the Week. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: Megamind. (2010) Animated superhero comedy, with the voice of Will Ferrell. **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator, which pushes Dick's engineering skills to the limit. (R) **7.00** **The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides an AC/DC tribute band from Newcastle through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges. Last in the series. **8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** New series. Professional duos from across the UK go head to head, aiming to impress celebrated pastry chefs Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin, and progress to the next round. **9.00** **Homeland.** Carrie and Saul's mission does not go as planned. Elizabeth Keane fights for her presidency. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel. Last in the series. **10.15** **Walter Presents: Tabula Rasa.** Belgian crime drama about a woman with amnesia who becomes a key figure in a missing persons case and must recover her memories to prove her innocence. Starring Veerle Baetens. **11.15** **Film: Transporter 3.** (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham and Natalya Rudakova. **1.10** **Film: Rustom.** (2016) **3.40** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.05** Gillette World Sport. **4.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.50** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess. **6.10** Whisper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moty. (R) **6.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.05** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.30** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Rusty Rivets. **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Floogals. (R) **9.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Shimmy and Shine. (R) **9.25** Disney Dragon. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Great Birmingham 10k Run. **12.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.30** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **1.05** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **3.05** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.05** Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups. (R) **5.05** News. **5.10** The Adele Story. (R) **6.30** **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, as voted for by their fans, with celebrities including singers Jane McDonald, Claire Richards and Liz McClarnon and former Blue Peter presenters Janet Ellis and Peter Duncan introducing their favourite clips. Featuring rare footage of the band, fascinating facts, and the stories of people who have turned their homes into shrines to the four-piece, a woman who named her daughter Abba, and a lady who learned Swedish just to get closer to her heroes. (R) **8.00** **Eurovision Greatest Hits.** **9.00** **When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong.** Angela Rippon presents a guide to the song contest's most disastrous moments. Featuring contributions from past acts including Dana, Sonia, Cheryl Baker and Jay Aston of Bucks Fizz, Lindsay Dracars, Belle & the Devotions, the Brotherhood of Man, Scoop, Nicki French, Andy Abraham, Kate Robbins and Danish singer Birthe Wilke, who recalls the kiss that ruined her chances in 1957. **11.55** **Football on 5: Last Day of the Season.** Colin Murray introduces highlights of the final round of regular-season Championship fixtures, including Sunderland v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Millwall v Aston Villa. **12.50** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Tribal Teens. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Only Connect **7.30** Civilisations Stories: Treasures of the Bronze Age **8.00** Dancing in the Blitz: How World War Two Made British Ballet **9.00** Ballet's Dark Knight – Sir Kenneth MacMillan **10.00** Michael Clark's To a Simple Rock 'n' Roll – Song **10.55** Duet **11.00** Rich Hall's California Stars **12.30** Science and Islam **1.30** Dancing in the Blitz: How World War Two Made British Ballet **2.30** Ballet's Dark Knight – Sir Kenneth MacMillan **3.30** Close **ITV2** **12.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.05** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Spy Kids (2003) **3.55** Britain's Got Talent **5.10** Britain's Got More Talent **6.10** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Film: Saw (2004) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Saw (2004) **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3** **11.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wine in the Blood **1.10** Blue Murder **2.25** Liverpool 1 **3.20** Road to Avonlea **4.55** George and Mildred **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4** **12.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. **5.30** Pawn Stars **6.55** Mr Bean **8.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **9.00** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **11.05** Film: The Bank Job (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: The Bank Job (2008) **1.20** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.15** Tommy Cooper **4.15** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Film: Evolution (2001) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Young Sheldon **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** Film: Magic Mike (2012) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory **2.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.10** RueTube **3.40** Hollyoaks **Film4** **1.00** Capture the Flag (2015) **2.50** The Boxtrolls (2014) **4.40** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **6.50** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992) **1.45** Fright Night (1985) **4.00** Close



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"I was determined to find an answer and I found Mr Steven Burchell at the Denture Clinic," she declares.

Her breakthrough came eight years ago while looking after a doctor in Wolverhampton, but never realised a story she was reading in the local newspaper would have such an impact on her daily living.

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A newspaper cutting finally ends dental tourist's quest for smile



On the day her new prescription was fitted she decided to celebrate with a meal out at the Miller & Carter steakhouse in Penn.

"I was advised to take it gently, but my teeth felt so good I thought I'll have a steak," she says. It was the first time Theresa could tackle such a "difficult meal". With schoolgirl laughter she adds: "I loved it. It was worth waiting for."

Admitting to a regular tipple of red wine, she's determined to carry on celebrating her new teeth and making the best of her restored confidence.

"I may even manage the odd glass of sherry," she jokes. "It's been a long time coming and I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."

She was always afraid to smile, but now...

Theresa's problems began when at 18 she took up job as a doctor's receptionist in Cork. She was advised to have a full clearance after gum disease was diagnosed. "The bite on every set of teeth I had was never right until now," she says.

Theresa left Cork with two other girls to stay with an order of nuns in Harrow.

"I was helping at a nursing home. The Reverend Mother sent my two friends back home but encouraged me to apply for a job with the Queen's Household and I worked as a deputy catering supervisor at Buckingham Palace."

Reflecting on her colourful life, she adds in a beautifully musical Cork accent: "Every year I get a Christmas card from the Queen."

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Notting Hill, ITV, 10.20pm

A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest - which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy written by Richard Curtis, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts, Rhys Ifans, Emma Chambers, James Dreyfus and Gina McKee. (1999)

TUESDAY

Snatched At Birth, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving woman develops an unhealthy obsession with having a child. When her best friend gives birth, and then dies in a car accident, the newborn goes missing. Thriller, starring Kaitlyn Black, David Gallagher and Alexandra Paul. (2017)

WEDNESDAY

Driven Off The Rails, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A married woman loses her memory after an accident, but when her memory returns, she believes she has had an affair with a missing man. Drama, starring Hannah Barefoot. (2017)



Buried, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

The Quiet Ones, Channel 4, 2am

An academic scientist recruits a group of Oxford students for a strange experiment, performing a series of tests on a woman in the hope of tapping into her apparent psychic abilities and deliberately manifesting a poltergeist. However, they soon find they are unable to control the dark forces they unleash. Horror, starring Jared Harris and Sam Claflin. (2014)

THURSDAY

Sinister Stepmother, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A divorcee is surprised to learn her ex-husband has married a younger woman - and even more surprised to discover her dark past. Thriller, with Annie Wersching. (2017)

FRIDAY

Buried, BBC1, 11.55pm

A man buried alive in the Iraqi desert tries to organise a rescue before he runs out of air - but even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds. (2010)

Peter and Sian are back in the driving seat once again

Sometimes, the best ideas tend to be the most simple.

Take Peter Kay's Car Share, for example. It was inspired by the Alfred Molina and Dawn French sitcom Roger & Val Have Just Got In, which focused on a couple spending time chatting about their day having returned home from work.

Co-creator Paul Coleman had previously worked with Kay on Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere, so he approached him with the idea of two people travelling to and from their workplace by car.

Kay brought in his old friend Sian Gibson (they had met as students at Salford University), and the rest is history.

Kay plays supermarket assistant manager John, who picks up colleague Kayleigh every day, initially as part of a new work scheme. At the start, they barely know each other, but as the weeks go by and they chat while travelling or stuck in traffic, they gradually become close friends.

MONDAY

Genderquake
Channel 4, 9pm

Eleven strangers with different gender identities and sexualities spend a week together under one roof in the hope that they will discover what divides them and what unites them. In the first of two editions, introductions quickly lead to arguments on the opening night and over the following days, as the housemates begin to make new alliances over visits to a country pub and nearby Brighton beach. Non-binary Saffron confesses her deepest anxieties to straight guy Tom, while transgender woman Brooke finds the confidence to brave the hot tub.

TUESDAY

Back to the Land with Kate Humble
BBC2, 7pm

New series. Return of the show in which the presenter champions the UK's most inspirational rural entrepreneurs. The first edition comes from Cornwall and features Tim and Caro, who free dive to pick seaweed. After a tough first few years living in caravans, Kate meets them at their most crucial point of expansion - they are about to move to a new premises, are embarking on cultivating their own seaweed for the first time, and Caro is pregnant with her second child. Plus, a visit to a

duck farm run by a couple who used to work in the haulage business.

WEDNESDAY

The Secret Life of the Zoo
Channel 4, 8pm

Chester Zoo's penguins move into a temporary home while a new luxury home is built for them, but the move becomes upsetting when malaria sweeps the colony, with elder Rudd battling to survive against the odds. Meanwhile, the African painted dog pups venture out of their den for the first time, but the runt of the litter Mosi refuses to go out into the cold, and keepers worry she may have issues with her eyesight. Elsewhere, Sumatran orangutan Emma gives birth, and a beetle with a wonky horn has to fight other bachelors in the group to win the attention of a female.

Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
BBC1, 9pm

In the final episode of the series, Hugh turns his attention to junk food marketing techniques, and compares them to the amount that is spent on marketing for

around 100,000 signatures in the process. Thankfully Kay announced he had relented during an appearance with Gibson on Children in Need last November.

"We were completely overwhelmed by the response and even though we've no plans to write a third series we knew we couldn't end the story there," claims Kay.

Shane Allen, the BBC's controller of comedy commissioning, adds: "This new finale is going to be the TV comedy equivalent of The Space Landing, Who Shot JR? or The Olympics Opening Ceremony depending on how old you are."

The final episode, written by Coleman, Gibson and Kay, is yet to come, but preceding it is this completely unscripted tale.

"We were always very fond of ad libbing around the script when we were filming the series," reveals Kay. "So we decided to see what would happen if we took the script away and just relied on just our chemistry alone, reacting to whatever came on the radio."

vegetables and healthy eating alternatives. Hugh also heads to a Conservative Party Conference, where he has been invited to speak about obesity, but is frustrated in his attempts to get an audience with Jeremy Hunt. Elsewhere, with the help of Jamie Oliver, he comes up with a bold plan to try and improve the health of the nation.

THURSDAY

Britain's Best Home Cook
BBC1, 8pm

Claudia Winkelman presents week two of the culinary contest, which sees the cooks create their ultimate fish dish, with accompaniments designed to showcase their individual personality. They must then invent a sweet or savoury meal with squash or rice as the key ingredient, before an anxious wait to hear who has to cook again. This week, judges Mary Berry, Dan Doherty and Chris Bavin have chosen a tricky dessert that requires precision - but

Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

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PICK OF THE WEEK



Peter Kay's Car Share Unscripted, Monday, BBC1, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

who will make it through the elimination round and who will be hanging up their apron?

FRIDAY

The One Show: NHS Patients Awards Special
BBC1, 7pm

As the NHS marks its 70th anniversary, The One Show, together with the Patients Association, pays its respects to the extraordinary people who keep it going day after day. Matt Baker and Alex Jones present a special edition honouring and celebrating the inspirational work of those staff who continually deliver outstanding care to patients and their families, as nominated by viewers. Categories include the Children's and Young People's Care Award, the Healthcare Award, the Nursing and Midwifery Award, the Unsung Hero Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Bridge
BBC2, 9pm

New series. The body of a woman is retrieved close to the bridge between Denmark and Sweden. It is found to be that of the Head of the Danish Immigration Board, whose staff had recently been filmed celebrating the success of a case deporting an Iranian homosexual who could face execution on his return.

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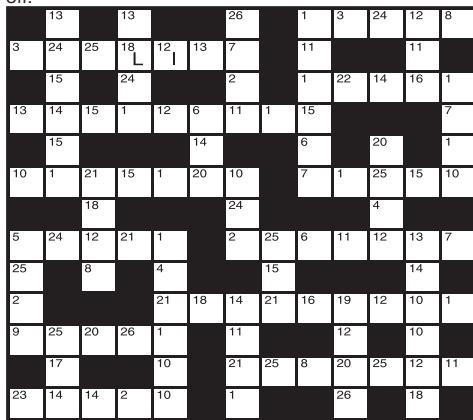
Express & Star

BRAIN GYM

No.478

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

A	L	N	H	K	P	G	I	V	J	M	C	B
Q	O	F	D	E	W	T	S	U	Z	X	R	Y

Quiz

- What is the Roman name for Odysseus?
- Of which mountain range is Mount McKinley the highest?
- Which John Travolta film won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1994?
- What is the smallest US state?
- Of which religion is a Parsee or Parsi a follower?
- Which Brighton-based boxer once earned
- £10m in an eight-fight package with Sky TV?
- Which race is the blue riband of the English horse-racing season?
- Which film company merged with MGM in the '80s?
- Which town in Greater Manchester includes Old Trafford cricket ground?
- Which Hollywood star's first name is Eldred?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

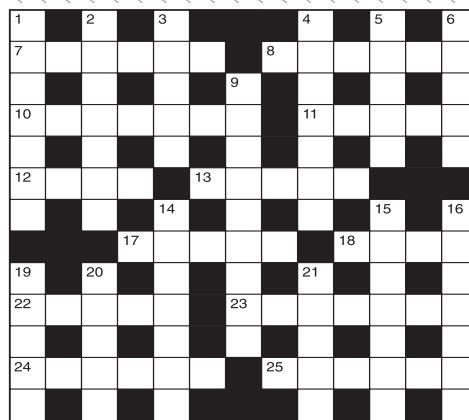
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Areas for a walk on board (6)
- Foreign office (6)
- Under it changes are yet to be made (7)
- Come gradually to the point? (5)
- Cheese that's made the wrong way (4)
- Sober way to help (5)
- Their accounts cannot be relied upon (5)
- Broken knee produces a plaintive cry (4)
- I'm illuminated round the edge (5)
- Caviare might produce such greed (7)
- Empty one container into another (6)
- A small-holder in the fruit trade (6)

Down

- Puts it on without being told? (7)
- Not wholly biased (7)
- Memorial of old priest outwardly Roman Catholic (5)
- Support us in shame (7)
- Hurry up, they're hard to fathom (5)
- Extravagant when out and about (5)
- Leaders of newspapers (9)
- Nowhere near cool enough (7)
- Draughtsman's intentions? (7)
- Discover something new in airways? (7)
- Being made to work (5)
- A spanking vessel? (5)
- Number get a fever that's ill-defined (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Accomplish (7)
- Bower (6)
- Contain (7)
- Boast (5)
- Huge (4)
- Scratch (5)
- Hasten (5)
- Solitary (4)
- Slack (5)
- Shorten (7)
- Fix (6)
- View (6)

Down

- Terse (7)
- Outcome (5)
- Courage (7)
- Knave (5)
- Banal (5)
- Fickle (9)
- Pacify (7)
- Warrior (7)
- Under (7)
- Fissure (5)
- Awaken (5)
- Rely on (5)

Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	6	3	5	4	2	9	1
3	1	2	9	6	8	4	7	5
9	5	4	7	2	1	6	3	8
5	3	8	1	9	6	7	2	4
2	4	9	8	3	7	1	5	6
1	6	7	5	4	2	3	8	9
7	2	1	6	8	5	9	4	3
6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1	2
4	9	5	2	1	3	8	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Light; 4 Funeral; 8 Oration; 9 Monet; 10 Bede; 11 Clangour; 13 Mobs; 14 Stun; 16 Runner-up; 17 Draw; 20 Yacht; 21 Sleeper; 22 Useless; 23 Poles; Down: 1 Look before you; 2 Grand; 3 Trim; 4 Finale; 5 Nominate; 6 Rangoon; 7 Literary works; 12 Absente; 13 Manacle; 15 Nurses; 18 Repet; 19 Leap; QUICK - Across: 1 Greed; 4 Chamfer; 8 Ascribe; 9 Fling; 10 Dull; 11 Acquaint; 13 Mean; 14 Snag; 16 Quagmire; 17 Pass; 20 Elude; 21 Survive; 22 Treason; 23 Press; Down: 1 Grandiloquent; 2 Excel; 3 Dais; 4 Clench; 5 Affluent; 6 Failing; 7 Righteousness; 12 Harmless; 13 Measure; 15 Prison; 18 Agile; 19 Grip.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

741782
87654928
3732662

gives an element,
gives a second element,
gives a scientific instrument.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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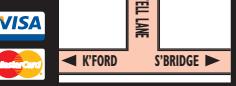
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BRIERLEY HILL



Tuck into feast from the Middle East

If you were to rank world cuisines on suitability for a first date then Lebanese would rank pretty low.

And that's not because it's a food that lacks sensuality. No, the problem with choosing a Lebanese restaurant for a first date is that you'll most certainly end up with a load of herbs in your teeth.

Eat a tabbouleh salad and smile afterwards at your peril; the likelihood of a second date will flash before your eyes. This salad isn't just heavy on parsley, it uses the grassy herb in Pavarotti-size proportions, only making way for a sprinkling of bulghur wheat, chopped tomatoes and spring onion.

Fattoush salads are pimped up with a garden's worth of parsley and mint, and let's not mention the cuisine's use of seeds. Jet black nigella seeds poke fun at diners with receding gums as they are liberally sprinkled on top of natural labné (strained yoghurt) while the ruby jewels of pomegranates are strewn on salads, stews and sauces.

FORTUNATE

And so it was rather fortunate that when I visited the new Birmingham branch of Comptoir Libanais I was not on a first date. Or a second or third date. It's safe to say that after more than 16 years together, me and the other half are well into harmonious, herb-munching, could care less about the consequences territory. We eat garlic with gusto, curries without caution and carry breath mints rarely. It's a happy time.

Happier even since Comptoir Libanais opened in Grand Central.

Interiors are a riot of colour and eccentricity. Walls, decorated in bright Moorish tiles, are adorned with quirky artworks and gold etched plates. Baklava is piled high in the entrance and there are staff lingering

The food of a nation – Lebanese mezze plates



Comptoir Libanais has opened in Grand Central



outside, trying to entice customers into their cavernous eatery.

Styled on a Beirut canteen, there's an open kitchen and the informal restaurant buzzes with noise, chatter and clatter of crockery.

The menu features hot and cold mezze plus wraps, salads and tagines as well as other Lebanese dishes such as roasted sea bass topped with spiced coriander, tomato and tahina sauce. The exotic ingredients – sumac, Damascus olives, tahini, labné, rose syrup, all made me wistful for far off lands. Let's run off to

Lebanon, I thought. Who says Lebanese food isn't romantic. As long as you don't mind herbs in your teeth, that is.

We chose the mezze platter for two featuring piles of falafels, grilled halloumi, tabbouleh and freekah salads, pitta breads alongside pools of baba ghanoush and hummus. And a shed load of herbs.

We also ordered some lamb kibbeh, tasty lemon-shaped parcels of minced meat, cracked wheat, pine nuts and spices, and a piquant fattoush salad. It all looked as good as it tasted

With 20 minutes to spare before we needed to dash off to the cinema we decided to risk ordering dessert, struggling to choose between the plate of baklava, the date-syrup topped frozen yoghurt and the chocolate, orange and cardamom tart. So we ordered all three but were left a bit disappointed.

Although we were allocated a waitress, service was chaotic. The bill came to just over £43 which included four Diet Cokes and service charge – all reasonably good value.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

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From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

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- ✓ 2 nights DBB at our selected hotel
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- ✓ Heritage train journey on the East Lancashire Railway



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Departing Sunday 23 Sep

From Dudley & Halesowen

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at our selected hotel in Yorkshire
- ✓ Ticket to The Good Old Days at the City Varieties Music Hall (Upper Circle, Side Circle or Side Stalls)
- ✓ Free time in Leeds & Harrogate



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Departing Thursday 27 Sep

From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

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- ✓ Return coach travel
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Splendid detached in a good location has three bedrooms

New to the property market, this splendid, detached family home in a great location in Baptist End Road, Netherton, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £214,950 with no upward chain.

A real "gem of a property", it has a large driveway to the front with a garage.

The property is entered through a small porch, which leads on to the main entrance hallway. Off this there is a downstairs WC and stairs to the first floor.

There are two reception rooms and a fitted dining kitchen, plus a rear lobby and internal access to the garage.

Upstairs the landing leads to three good-sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC, including a mixer shower over the bath.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Outside the rear garden and patio has to be seen to be believed. It is beautifully presented and secluded with patio area, lawn and terraced beds leading to a wooded area to the rear with brick storage shed."

In more detail this home comes with a superb block paved driveway, providing ample parking space.

The lounge is carpeted and has an Adams-style fireplace surround, while the dining room also has a feature fireplace.

The kitchen features modern cream-coloured units.

A spokesman said: "Trinity Property bring a fresh, friendly and honest approach to selling, buying and letting property within the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

"Offering free market appraisals, great EPC prices, all aspects of property letting and management, they are based in central Dudley and cover Kingswinford, Wordsley, Netherton, Sedgley, Tipton and Tividale and more, with a business built on recommendation.

"With many years of experience to bring to the table, you can expect great service at the right price."



NETHERTON £214,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property
TEL: 01384 213395
EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net

KEY FEATURES

Detached family home

Great location

3 bedrooms

Large driveway

Stunning garden



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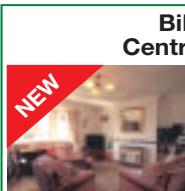
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GUIDE PRICE £59,500



NEW
Three bedroom detached home - Lounge - Diner, Kitchen and Conservatory - Spacious layout - Three Good Sized Bedrooms - Refitted House Bathroom - Excellent Sized Rear Garden - MUST BE VIEWED !!! - EPC E - £320,000



NEW
For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auction. GUIDE PRICE £23,000 ONE BEDROOM TOP FLOOR APARTMENT.

GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY. NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC G, MUST BE VIEWED. Guide Price £23,500



SSTC IN ONE WEEK

A two bed semi-detached family home in a popular area, with off road parking for two cars, and large lean-to/carport to the side. Internally there is a pleasant lounge, downstairs WC and fitted kitchen. Upstairs has two double bedrooms, with a storage cupboard in bedroom one. Bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Low maintenance garden with patio and astro turf area, with large garden shed included. EPC C, must be viewed!

£94,950

DUDLEY
New Crown Street



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. Located in a cul-de-sac location and within walking distance of Dudley Town Centre, the property offers a driveway to the front and further off road parking (neatly) and single garage to the side of the property, once inside there is a downstairs WC, good-sized lounge and fitted kitchen/diner. On the first floor there are three bedrooms (two doubles, one single) and a house bathroom/WC with mixer shower over the bath. EPC D, £130,000

DUDLEY
Peel Street



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. Located in a cul-de-sac location and within walking distance of Dudley Town Centre, the property offers a driveway to the front and further off road parking (neatly) and single garage to the side of the property, once inside there is a downstairs WC, good-sized lounge and fitted kitchen/diner. On the first floor there are three bedrooms (two doubles, one single) and a house bathroom/WC with mixer shower over the bath. EPC D, £130,000

OAKHAM, DUDLEY
Dingle Close



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auction. GUIDE PRICE £210,000 FIVE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY. WITH OFF ROAD PARK TO THE FRONT, NO UPWARD CHAIN, PROPERTY VIEWINGS VIA AGENT. GUIDE PRICE

Oakham, Dudley
Compton Drive



A spacious detached family residence in a sought after location off Oakham Road in a cul-de-sac location, enjoying central heating & double glazing - the property comprises a porch, lounge with dining area, a further reception room, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs there are three good sized bedrooms (two doubles and a further single) and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Outside there is ample off road parking leading to a double garage, a side entrance. EPC D, £224,950

DUDLEY
Compton Drive



A three/four bed detached house in a cul-de-sac location, situated just off the Oakham Road in Dudley. Having a drive to the front with a single garage, internally the property comprises an entrance hall, with downstairs WC and stairs to the first floor off doors to: Large lounge with dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen with serving hatch, dining room/breakfast room, utility, stairs to the side with front and rear access. On the first floor, there are three good sized bedrooms (two doubles and a single) and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Outside there is ample off road parking leading to a double garage, a side entrance. EPC D, £210,000

DUDLEY
Lingwood Hall, St



-- Lower Ground Floor Apartment -- Fitted Kitchen, patio door to communal gardens/patio area -- Large Lounge, fitted kitchen -- Two double bedrooms -- EPC E -- En-suite shower/WC to bedroom one -- Front and rear entrances -- Allocated parking off road secure parking -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- £114,950

We are pleased to offer this well-presented two bedroom extended property on a corner plot. The property offers a detached single garage and large parking area to the side, once inside there are two reception rooms, a fitted kitchen with porch to the front and inner hallway with downstairs bathroom/WC (with jacuzzi bath). Upstairs there are two double bedrooms and a shower/WC. To the rear there is a good sized garden with patio and terraced lawn area. MUST BE VIEWED. IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS, EPC C.

£114,950

Dudley
St James's Road



-- Three bedroom semi-detached home -- Two Reception Rooms -- Dining room & Kitchen -- Bathroom/WC with wet area/shower -- EPC E -- Three Beds (2 double and 1 single) -- Gardens to front and rear -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- MUST BE VIEWED -- £199,950

DUDLEY
Dingle close



-- Three bedroom semi-detached home -- Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen -- Situated just off the Oakham Road -- House Bathroom with separate shower cubicle & bath with WC upstairs -- Three Beds, 2 double and 1 single -- EPC D -- Garden and small patio to rear -- Garage & driveway to the front -- MUST BE VIEWED -- £167,500

NETHERTON
Baptist End Road



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auction. GUIDE PRICE £61,000 TWO BEDROOM SECOD FLOOR APARTMENT, LARGE LOUNGE, DINER AND KITCHEN WITH VIEWS NO UPWARD CHAIN, PROPERTY VIEWINGS VIA AGENT.

GUIDE PRICE £61,000

Tividale
Elm Terrace



-- Two Bedroom Semi Detached house -- Good Sized Lounge -- Good Sized Kitchen and diner -- Drive to front -- EPC D -- Two double bedrooms -- House Bathroom with separate shower cubicle & bath with WC upstairs -- MUST BE VIEWED -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- £119,000

BILSTON
Bay Avenue



-- A mid terraced four bed town house -- Modern, spacious property -- Two lounges, fitted dining kitchen -- Accommodation over three floors -- Two en-suites, bath/WC, downstairs WC -- EPC C -- Four good sized bedrooms -- Drive to front, rear garden with shed -- Viewing recommended! -- £175,000

Tipton
Thunderbolt Way



-- A third (top) floor 2 bed apartment -- Modern, neutral decor throughout -- Large Lounge with 2 Juliet balconies -- Modern Fitted Kitchen/diner -- EPC C -- Two Bedrooms (1 double, 1 single) -- Bathroom/WC with shower over bath -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- MUST BE VIEWED -- £82,500



-- a splendid, detached family home in a great location -- high quality double glazing throughout with gas central heating -- downstairs WC with upstairs bathroom/WC with mixer shower over the bath -- lounge to front, dining room 'room with a view' to the rear, fitted kitchen with large pantry -- rear lobby with access to the garage and rear garden -- two double bedrooms (one with fitted wardrobes) and a family bathroom -- wonderful secluded gardens to rear -- no upward chain - must be seen to be believed -- EPC TBC

£214,950

Sedgley
Sandstone Close



-- One bed ground floor apartment -- Lounge with feature fire place -- House Bathroom/WC with shower -- Fitted Kitchen -- Drive to front -- Good Sized Rear Garden -- MUST BE VIEWED -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- EPC D -- £75,000

Tipton
Victoria Road



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom detached property with no upward chain. The property offers a spacious living area, to include two reception rooms, downstairs WC and extended kitchen. On the first floor there are three bedrooms (two doubles, one single) with shower room and separate WC. Good sized rear garden with patio area with steps to lawned area. In need of renovation work. Views over Tipton Park to front. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC.

DUDLEY
King Edmunds Street



We are pleased to offer this splendid, three bedroom detached, double fronted family home in a pleasant location with views to front and side. Outside there is a driveway for up to three cars and a good-sized garage to the side. Internally the property offers an airy, light dining kitchen and lounge with windows on two sides, a downstairs WC and under stairs storage. On the first floor there are three good sized double bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. The master bedroom also has an en-suite



-- A mid terraced commercial Building -- Currently in use of as a doctors surgery -- Freehold block -- NO UPWARD CHAIN -- EPC - TBC -- Located in the centre of Netherton -- Off Road Parking to rear -- MUST BE VIEWED -- Ideal conversion opportunity subject to planning -- £120,000



We are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom semi-detached home. Within 5 Minutes walking distance of Bilston town centre with good transport links to Wolverhampton and beyond. Off road parking to the front of the property with side access to the rear, the property offers a good sized lounge leading to a modern fitted kitchen/diner and stairs with stairs to the first floor landing. Upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. To the rear there is a small patio area with lawned rear garden and double gates for further off road parking. MUST BE VIEWED! NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC D -- £110,000



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**Netherton
Purlin Wharf**
LET
Beautifully presented modern three bedroom mid terrace house. Has large lounge, fitted kitchen to include oven & hob. Downstairs wc. Main bathroom upstairs. Drive way to front. Unfurnished. No Dss or pets. Available now to view. EPC B
£680PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Royal Oak Road**
LET
Recently re-decorated Mid-Terraced Three bedroom House in a convenient residential area, shops, schools and amenities are all within easy reach. Briefly the accommodation comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms and One Further Single, Bathroom/WC with shower over bath, and Gardens to Front & Rear.

Having the benefit of Gas Central Heating, Sorry NO DSS. NO PETS. UNFURNISHED. register your interest NOW to avoid disappointment.

£600 PCM & FEES

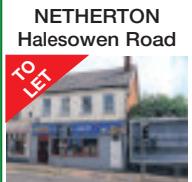


**Netherton
Baptist End Road**
TO LET
Terraced Three Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Large Kitchen including integrated Oven/Hob
- Bathroom/WC - shower over bath
- Downstairs Utility Room / WC
- No DSS Accepted
- Pets Considered
- EPC D
- Close to local amenities

£575 PCM & FEES



**WOLVERHAMPTON
Coppice Close**
**NEW
INSTRUCTION**
A Delightful 2 Bed semi-Detached house is now available in the Wolverhampton Area in a Private Cul-de-sac Location. This property comprises a reception hall, large lounge, 2 bedrooms, a fully fitted kitchen and family bathroom with shower/WC. The property benefits from Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing throughout. The property is Non-Furnished, Front & Rear gardens. DSS Accepted with guarantor, Pets Considered, EPC D
£525 PCM & FEES



**NETHERTON
Halesowen Road**
TO LET
A one bedroom ground floor flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen. Kitchen includes cooker. Walk in shower & separate toilet/sink. One double bedroom. Economy 7 storage heaters. Double glazing. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS. EPC F
£340 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Castle Street**
TO LET
A FABULOUS LUXURY STUDIO APARTMENT. The spacious accommodation is set out for modern living with a double bed, dressing area and a defined fitted kitchen/dining area, a HIGH SPECIFICATION HOTEL STYLE fully tiled and fitted bathroom. All Bills INCLUDED excluding WiFi. The apartment benefits from a secure coded entry, Double glazed, gas central heating, DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE location within walking distance of all amenities including the main bus station. Great for commuters - due to close Motorway and Black Country Spine Road links. Deposit payable plus Fees Apply. NO DSS/SMOKERS/PETS. BE THE FIRST TO OCCUPY this newly presented studio apartment!



**BILSTON
Oaklands Court**
NEW
A modern 2 bed 2nd floor flat, carpeted throughout, fully fitted kitchen with integral appliances, spacious lounge, 2 good sized bedrooms (master with ensuite/shower room), large family bathroom, plenty of storage, secure access and parking, unfurnished, viewing highly recommended, available now.
£525 PCM & FEES



**Tipton
Harrowby Drive**
TO LET
A one bed ground floor studio flat in cul-de-sac location - clean and tidy, laminate flooring throughout, lounge/bedroom, kitchen, WC/Shower. DSS considered. Must have a guarantor. Available now, unfurnished.

£350 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Attingham Drive**
TO LET
•••VIEWINGS
RECOMMENDED•••
A delightful & modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated within a popular estate close to Dudley Town Centre, comprising of open plan kitchen/lounge, Double bedroom and shower room. Separate storage room with space for washing machine. Being alarmed and outside security door into lobby. With one allocated parking space and guest parking. The property is double glazed with electric storage heaters throughout. EPC-C. NO DSS, NO PETS.
£440 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
New Rowley Road**
NEW
A one bed first floor flat (with separate entrance) - new double glazing, having central heating. Good sized lounge, separate kitchen and double bedroom, bathroom/WC off

the bedroom. No pets, DSS considered with guarantor. EPC rating D
£385 PCM & Fees



**Wolverhampton
Prestwood Road**
NEW
A very well presented one bed ground floor apartment with double glazing and central heating, very modern throughout. Has a lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, double bedroom, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath and plenty of storage. Communal gardens to the rear, separate garage. Unfurnished, no benefits applicants, no pets. Available now for long term. Walking distance of shops, park, local schools and New Cross Hospital. Viewing highly recommended.
£375 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Heath Green**
NEW
Two bedroom mid terraced house. Has lounge, fitted kitchen includes integrated oven. Downstairs wc. Bathroom with shower on 1st floor, two good sized bedrooms. Driveway and rear garden. Unfurnished. Dss ok with working guarantor. No pets. EPC C
£525 PCM & FEES



**WEST BROMWICH
Lodge Road**
**NEW
INSTRUCTION**
A Beautifully Presented Four Bedroom Mid-Terraced Family Home Located Close to the city centre of West Bromwich close to local amenities and public transport links nearby. This Property Compromises from a Large Reception Room and a Separate Lounge/Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen with a Range style Oven/Integrated Appliances, this family home benefits from a downstairs shower room and separate WC. On the first floor there are 4 bedrooms and a Luxury family bathroom. There is double glazing and gas central heating, good sized rear garden and on street parking. Fully Furnished, NO DSS ACCEPTED. EPC E
AVAILABLE NOW TO VIEW

£1050 PCM & FEES



**TIPTON
Bradley Street**
NEW
Nicely presented one bedroom second floor apartment. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Double glazing. Parking area to rear. Secure entry. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC E
£385 PCM & Fees



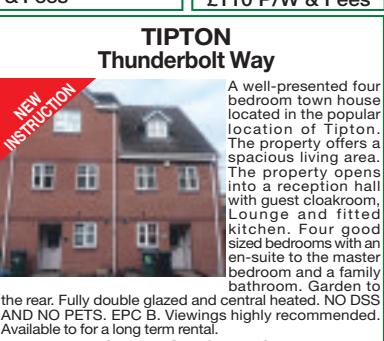
**TIPTON
Toll End Road**
NEW
A professional house share, one room left! Fully furnished. Shared kitchen with appliances, wifi available. Accommodation is over two floors. Short term lets considered, no DSS, no pets. All bills included, deposit and references required. EPC C
£110 P/W & Fees



**Dudley
Southalls Lane**
**NEW
INSTRUCTION**
A three storey period property with double glazing and central heating in a town centre location, having a lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen to rear, the 1st floor has a double bedroom and lovely bathroom/WC with separate shower, the 2nd floor has a double bedroom and large storage cupboard. Yard to rear with access to the street, unfurnished, available now for long term, no DSS, no pets. EPC D
£550 PCM & FEES



**SEDGLEY
Brook Street**
TO LET
A six room house beautifully converted and within easy reach of Sedgley village. A range of rooms (1 double room) over three floors with an exclusive 1st floor. All rooms have ensuite WCs/bathroom and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. Shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer. Rear garden with a shed for storage. Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent, long and short term lets available, no pets. EPC D
£100 P/W & Fees



**TIPTON
Thunderbolt Way**
**NEW
INSTRUCTION**
A well-presented four bedroom town house located in the popular location of Tipton. The property offers a spacious living area. The property opens into a reception hall with guest cloakroom, Lounge and fitted Kitchen. Four good sized bedrooms with an en-suite to the master bedroom and a family bathroom. Garden to the rear. Fully double glazed and central heated. NO DSS AND NO PETS. EPC B. Viewings highly recommended. Available to for a long term rental.
£775 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Maple Road**
TO LET
A Beautiful three bedroom semi detached house in central Dudley, with off road parking and central heating. Newly decorated lounge, fitted kitchen with dining area, downstairs shower room/WC with upstairs WC. Three bedrooms (two doubles, one single), Patio and low maintenance garden & green house to rear with drive to the side. Two sheds to the rear. Unfurnished. NO PETS, NO DSS. EPC B must be viewed.
£575 PCM & FEES



**TIPTON
Churchyard Road**
**NEW
INSTRUCTION**
A very well presented modern two bed semi with off road parking. On a popular estate, with double glazing and central heating, having a porch, downstairs WC, fitted kitchen, pleasant lounge and conservatory to rear. Upstairs has two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and a shower/WC (with double walk-in shower) and plenty of storage space. Garden with patio and lawn to rear with side access. Unfurnished, no DSS, no pets, available from 1st June 2018 for long term. EPC C
£625PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Wolverhampton**
TO LET
Cellars/storage area to rear of Wolverhampton St, access from Trinity Road. Three main rooms approx 180 sq ft each. Fenced/gated area to rear. Available now on a commercial lease for long term.
£150 PCM & Fees



**DUDLEY
Queens Hall**
TO LET
Modern two bedroom apartment. Has open plan lounge with fully fitted kitchen. Master bedroom with en suite. Main bathroom with shower. Secure entry. Allocated secure parking.
Walking distance to Dudley town centre. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view
£560 PCM & FEES



**DUDLEY
Stone Street**
TO LET
A two bed first floor flat in Central Dudley, situated above shops on Stone St. A communal entrance leads to the staircase to the first floor, with an entrance to the flat. The flat has a hallway leading to a lounge with double glazing, a double bedroom and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Electric storage heating, no pets, unfurnished, available now for long term. EPC F
£450 PCM & FEES

K.Stuart Swash

AUCTION

12th June 2018

Entries to date include:

Properties for renovation

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www.kstuartswash.co.uk

PROPERTY



Link-detached in popular area has been extended

Set in a popular residential location, this link detached four-bedroomed desirable family home has been much improved and extended.

The property, in Carters Lane, Halesowen, is for sale through Scriven & Co Estate Agents at £429,950. It has a porch, reception hall, a downstairs WC, two reception rooms, an extended kitchen/

HALESOWEN

£429,950

breakfast room, a utility, four bedrooms, a bathroom, shower room, small garage, garden, central heating and double majority double glazing. In more detail its porch has wood-effect laminate flooring,

while the reception hall has original floor boards with the downstairs WC close by.

The extended kitchen/breakfast has a four-ring Hotpoint gas hob with cooker hood above, a double oven, storage cupboards at high level and an integrated fridge and dishwasher.

Contact 0121 422 4011.



CGI of the 2 bedroom Ashcombe at Woodlands. Photography of typical Kier showhomes. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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With integrated appliances, downstairs cloakroom plus en-suite and fitted wardrobes to the master bedroom, our 2 bedroom Ashcombe is a home without compromise. Reserve it now.

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DUDLEY, Shugborough Drive, Milking Bank

Simply stunning modern DETACHED property located on the extremely desirable residential development of milking bank. Having gas central heating and double glazing this spacious family home also comprises; entrance hallway, living room, dining room, attractive fitted kitchen, conservatory, utility room guest w/c, FIVE BEDROOMS, two ensuite shower rooms, family bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with driveway and garden to front. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £315,000



SEDGLEY, Avington Close

ENVIRABLY SITUATED in quiet favoured cul-de-sac (just off Gospel End Road) with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached family home with porch, entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, store, lounge, dining room, kitchen three (previously four) bedrooms, bathroom, lengthly enclosed carport and large brick garage, delightful sheltered rear garden with views. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £265,000



NR. SEDGLEY, Charles Hayward Drive

OVERLOOKING FIELDS! Recently built, stylish & spacious, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached on periphery of recent development abutting onto and overlooking open countryside. Presented in exemplary order throughout the accommodation includes; hallway, 17' 9" lounge, dining kitchen (with French doors out to garden & many integrated appliances), cloakroom. Two double bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom and to the second floor a Magnificent Principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Neat garden, car port, additional parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £220,000



KINGSWINFORD, Park Lane

AN OUTSTANDING, BRAND NEW and SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED DORMER HOUSE BUNGALOW within walking distance of the park, sought after schools and amenities. The accommodation is VERSATILE & INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and APPOINTED TO A VERY HIGH SPECIFICATION throughout, including, AC, WARRANTY & offers a flexible THREE/ FOUR BEDROOM layout. With three car driveway and a broad and private rear garden. EPC B

No upward chain

£449,500



UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street

PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. - Gas centrally heated, double glazed, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMED Victorian residence with many fine period features (lofty ceiling heights/panelled doors/ Minton tiled hall floor/marble fireplace) comprising: hall (with cellar below), dining room, lounge, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Stairs lead to fourth bedroom. GARAGE/WORKSHOP, gardens. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £350,000



COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurs Hill

OUTSTANDING, spacious, 'landmark' family residence (on 3 floors) overlooking open aspect comprising; hall, magnificent 26' 5" through living/dining room (with multi-fuel stove), 21' 6" CLOAKROOM, kitchen, utility room, 17' ft sunroom with granite work surfaces & many units, appliances, utility room, cloakroom. Three double bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), house bathroom, 25' 2" fourth bedroom. Gardens, ample parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY

New price WAS £340,000, NOW £329,950



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

Deceptively spacious, FOUR BEDROOM, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home within walking distance of many day-to-day amenities/schools/open fields etc. comprising; large refitted sunroom, cloakroom, store, lounge leading to CONSERVATORY, sunroom, kitchen, dining room with light beech effect units & various integrated appliances. FOUR BEDROOMS (two with wardrobes), bathroom. Driveway, 31 ft car port, garage, neat garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950



GORNAL WOOD, Water Road

Imaginatively planned, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached constructed circa 2011 to an exacting specification with extremely flexible room arrangements & within walking distance of local village. To the ground floor; hall, store, kitchen (with range of integrated units), shower room, three bedrooms, spacious living/dining room. To the first floor; two double bedrooms (with bathroom en-suite and shower room en-suite) and extra shower, parking, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £240,000



BILSTON, Elwells Close, Sedgmoor Park

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Conscientiously maintained & improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home in cul-de-sac briefly comprising; hall, lounge, dining room (with double patio doors to garden), enlarged/upgraded 15' 10" breakfast kitchen, pantry, cloakroom, and former garage utilised as a study. Spacious lounge, bathroom, garage, utility room, enclosed rear garden, car port with drive, garden to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £236,000



LOWER GORNAL, Irving Close, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Located on quiet cul-de-sac location in the sought after area of the Straits' in Lower Gornal, this well proportioned semi detached dormer style bungalow which has been extended & much improved. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing this THREE BEDROOM also boasts; porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, Garage, utility room, enclosed rear garden, car port with drive, garden to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £219,000, NOW £200,000



COSELEY, Pemberton Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. FANTASTIC opportunity to acquire a genuinely unique DOUBLE FRONTED DETACHED BUNGALOW, positioned in its own corner plot along with views of Coseley Cricket grounds. Surrounded by well kept gardens, this spacious property consists of gas central heating & double glazing throughout, lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room, THREE BEDROOMS (one currently being used as a dining room), detached garage and driveway. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £199,950



WORDSLEY, Ryder Street

A BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED FAMILY END TOWNHOUSE with a LARGE PRIVATE REAR GARDEN and BLOCK PAVED FRONTRAGE, having been EXTENSIVELY REFURBISHED throughout, creating a ready to move into layout of GENEROUS accommodation which includes THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. EPC C

No upward chain £164,950



KINGSWINFORD, Sycamore Road

A STUNNING & BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE which enjoys a sought after location, offering an EXPENSIVELY RE APPPOINTED, REDECORATED and GENEROUS layout which includes TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS plus NEW DRIVEWAY and a GENEROUS GARDEN. EPC D

New price £164,950



KINGSWINFORD, Granville Drive

●●ATTENTION PROPERTY INVESTORS●● An excellent opportunity to purchase TWO FLATS comprising of a LARGE 3 BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT and a SPACIOUS FIRST FLOOR 1 BEDROOM FLAT. Both properties have generated a combined income of £11,100 p a (gross). EPC C

No upward chain

£155,000



COSELEY, Rock Road, Hurst Hill

PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the front! Tremendously modernised & improved, gas centrally heated, double glazed, terrace of character with many period features. Stunning accommodation includes; lounge (with woodburning stove) & wood block floor, lobby, dining room (with woodblock floor), kitchen with integrated units, reappointed bathroom with traditionally style white suite, THREE BEDROOMS. The brick stores, delightful garden with decking. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £145,000



LOWER GORNAL, Wood Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well presented semi detached home ideal for the first time buyer looking to get onto the property ladder. Located in the popular Lower Gornal area and consisting of living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing with enclosed rear garden and drive with ample parking to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £139,950, NOW £134,950



UPPER GORNAL, Hermit Street

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, stylish, significantly improved, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed three (potentially four) bedroom traditional terraced with OPEN ASPECT comprising; entrance vestibule, lounge, dining room, breakfast room, large walk-in store, upgraded kitchen, lobby, reappointed bathroom with white suite, THREE BEDROOMS, steps to attic with sky light. Delightful secluded rear garden, EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £130,000



PRICE: £110,000



Smallholding features four-bedroomed home

BLACKHILLS

£750,000

Porterlet on Bridgnorth Road, Blackhills, Dudley, is an agricultural smallholding with just over 28 acres of farming land, a modern detached four-bedroomed house and a range of outbuildings.

It is for sale through Berriman Eaton at £750,000. This modern home is pleasantly designed and captures wonderful rural views in all directions. Some updating is required, the windows are UPVC double glazed and the central heating has recently been replaced with a gas fired boiler.

The lounge extends front to back with dual aspect and an open fire, whilst a good-size formal dining room creates a good entertaining area. The breakfast kitchen has a dark wood-style range of units. A separate utility provides good storage with plumbing for a washing machine and further units.

Contact Berriman Eaton on 01746 766499.



Property with five bedrooms enjoys stunning views to rear

SEDGLEY

£399,950

<<<

Positioned in a quiet cul-de-sac off Catholic Lane, 19 Larkswood Drive, Sedgley, Dudley, is a substantial five-bedroomed family residence, with stunning views to the rear.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £399,950. In a very popular area, it is close to a range of amenities and a short distance from Sedgley town centre.

Although the position of this property is one of its finest qualities, with the stunning views to the rear, this impressive home also boasts five bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms, a fitted dining kitchen, a downstairs WC and a 29ft garage to the rear. There is ample parking to the front and an enclosed delightful garden to the rear.

To book that all important viewing, contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868.

Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



27 DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY

- Exceptional individual detached family home, Set within well tended walled gardens
- Spacious five bedroom accommodation over three floors
- Impressive conservatory, three reception rooms, high quality fittings throughout
- Extensive breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom
- EPC RATING C



O/A £649,950



'WOODBINE COTTAGE', 73 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HAGLEY

- Attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage
- Bedroom one with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved double glazed accommodation
- Car parking to side of property with easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING D



£325,000



7 BOUNDARY CRESCENT, LOWER GORNAL

- Extended & considerably improved semi detached house
- Well maintained accommodation with three bedrooms plus attic room
- Added benefit of a sun room, bar, utility area and sauna room
- Rear garden with decking on two levels and swimming pool
- EPC RATING D



£187,500



NEW

141 SEDGLEY ROAD, WOODSETTON

£177,500

- Modern three bedroom detached house
- Offers well presented accommodation
- Garage situated at the rear with additional parking
- Situated in a well established and popular residential area
- EPC RATING TBC



NO UPWARD CHAIN



NEW

458 HIMLEY ROAD, DUDLEY

Guide Price £100,000

- Character Gornal Wood cottage with footpath access only to the front
- Occupying a level garden plot with potential for extension and improvement
- Approached from Himley Road over an unmade driveway
- Pleasant cottage gardens
- NO PROVISION FOR OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING F



BUILDING PLOT ADJ 54 DEEPDALE LANE

£98,000



GORNAL

- Individual building plot
- Planning consent for a five bedroom detached dwelling
- Planning application number P15/1679
- Popular and established residential area
- Excellent views to the rear



£169,500

8 HALL GROVE, COSELEY

- Detached house with three bedrooms
- In need of some updating works
- Situated in a pleasant cul de sac location
- An inspection is highly recommended in order for potential to be appreciated.
- Double glazed and gas centrally heated
- EPC RATING E



37 DALESWOOD PARK, ROMSLEY

£129,950

- New park home enviably positioned on a hard landscaped plot with ample patio areas
- Overlooking adjoining woodland within a semi rural locality
- Contemporary accommodation with open plan living room, dining/kitchen area
- Two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, shower room with large walk in shower
- Daleswood Park is a small park home site, designated for owner occupiers only



LANDLORDS

Due to high demand and successful lettings we now require more properties to let. Competitive package with no upfront costs. Quality respectable tenants. Friendly Managing Agent. Reputable service.



109 DUDLEY ROAD O/A £114,950

- Well presented & improved mid terraced house
- Two bedrooms plus attic bedroom
- Two reception rooms & enlarged kitchen
- First floor bathroom with jacuzzi bath
- EPC RATING E



CASH OFFERS ONLY

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Cot Lane, Kingswinford

- A beautifully presented 6 bedroom detached home
- Separate detached annex at the rear
- Prime location ideally situated for Glynne Primary
- Superb open plan kitchen and dining area
- Study, playroom, two fitted cloakrooms, utility
- Two en-suites, family bathroom, must be viewed, EPC: C

OIRO £615,000

Orton Lane, Wombourne

- Beautifully presented traditional detached bungalow
- Secluded position on prestigious Orton Bank
- Spacious lounge, delightful dining kitchen, modern shower room
- Garage, summerhouse and an enviable wooded back drop
- Two double bedrooms, central heating, double glazing
- Viewing essential, EPC: D

£325,000

Cross Street, Wall Heath

- Three bedroom detached family home
- Dining kitchen, spacious lounge, ground floor W.C.
- Maintained and improved to a very high standard
- Level lawned gardens, garage, driveway
- Excellent local schools, public transport and recreational facilities
- Central heating and double glazing, EPC: D

£289,950


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Albert Street, Wall Heath

- A period style double fronted detached residence
- Three good sized reception rooms
- Ground floor kitchen, utility & shower room
- Four well proportioned bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing
- Large garden, no upward chain, EPC: E

£325,000

Maidensbridge Road, Kingswinford

- Three double bedroom detached bungalow
- At the head of a driveway off Maidensbridge Road
- Master bedroom with en-suite, breakfast kitchen
- Separate double garage, ample parking
- Hard landscaped level gardens at front and rear
- Double glazing and central heating. EPC: D

£324,950

Himley Road, Gornal Wood, Dudley

- Modern three bedroom detached bungalow
- With 'no upward chain', level landscaped gardens
- Spacious accommodation, en-suite, fitted cloaks
- Quiet, end of private driveway position
- Central heating, double glazing, superb breakfast kitchen
- Must be viewed, EPC: C

OIRO £315,000

Cedars Avenue, Kingswinford

- Extended three bedroom detached bungalow
- Quiet and select cul-de-sac, rarely available
- In need of modernisation, central heating
- Double glazing, large garage
- Wet room, separate W.C.
- No upward chain, EPC: E

£295,000

Albert Street, Wall Heath

- A beautifully modernised contemporary detached home
- Completely re-furbished to a high standard
- Superb re-fitted kitchen and bathroom - with separate shower
- Ground floor W.C., dining area with solid fuel stove
- Double width newly laid driveway
- No upward chain, EPC: D

£274,950

Maidendale Road, Kingswinford

- Extended three bedroom detached property
- Improved and maintained to a high standard
- Fitted cloakroom, utility, landscaped garden
- Re-fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Bathroom with full suite
- Edge of countryside, EPC: D

OIRO £274,000

Hinksford Mobile Home Park, Kingswinford,

- A two bedroom mobile home on Hinksford Park
- Superb location within quiet backwater
- Beautiful setting, views & canal side walks
- Central heating and double glazing
- Two reception rooms, kitchen
- Bathrooms, large rear garden
- Outbuilding, no upward chain

£169,950

Rowan Rise, Kingswinford

- Semi with three generous bedrooms
- Requires some updating with lots of potential
- Central heating, double glazing
- Two reception rooms, kitchen
- Bathrooms, large rear garden
- No upward chain, EPC: TBC

£149,500

Hinksford Mobile Home Park, Kingswinford

- A three bedroom mobile home on Hinksford Park
- Superb semi-rural location
- Beautiful setting with views and canal side walks close by
- Outhouse and garden
- Central heating and double glazing
- No upward chain

£124,950

Primrose Park, Pensnett, Brierley Hill

- One bed retirement bungalow - over 55's
- Beautifully maintained gardens and grounds
- Courtyard parking, central heating
- Newly fitted composite door and double glazing
- Fitted kitchen, double bedroom
- Viewing essential, no upward chain, EPC: D

OFFERS OVER £67,000



Get up close and personal to the car

Here's what you should check when buying a used car

It's crucial to know what you're buying when picking up the keys to a used car. Here's what you should check.

Buying a used car can be a daunting experience. Without prior knowledge, selecting a vehicle from a list of thousands can prove to be a little overwhelming – and can prove costly if done incorrectly.

Fortunately, we've put together a list of the things you need to check when buying a used vehicle.

- Check its history

Once you've picked out a car you like from the classifieds, it's imperative that you check the car's history. Many companies provide this service for a small fee and require just the car's registration. You can also find out a vehicle's MOT history via the government's website, and this gives you an idea as to any faults the vehicle may have had, or still suffers from.

- Ask questions

Before you even go anywhere near the car, give the seller a ring and ask them about it. This could save you hundreds of pounds by eliminating the need to travel and see the car if it isn't quite right for you.

- Get up close and personal

Once you get to the car, it's time to give a thorough going over. Check that the engine isn't warm – this could be a sign that the owner is trying to hide some mechanical faults.

● Look out for rust spots on the arches – these are prone to corrosion – and check underneath the car's sills, too.

- Look under the bonnet

Of course, checking out the engine is a crucial part of the inspection process. Check the dipstick – is the oil fresh?

Also look around the oil filler cap – any white residue could potentially mean a blown head gasket, and could lead to thousands of pounds in repair bills. Make sure that you see receipts for any work that has been undertaken on the car too – this will give you a better idea about the state of its mechanics.

- Check the interior

Does the interior of the car match the mileage? If the car has a beaten-up interior but has low miles, it could mean that the vehicle has been 'clocked', where the car's odometer is wound back. This is less prevalent in newer cars, but it's worth bearing in mind.

- Do the deal

If you've checked the car over, reviewed its history and feel happy with the overall package, then it's time to make an offer. Don't be afraid of pitching low – there's a good chance that the seller could take it, saving you thousands.

Remember to keep things amicable and, above anything, don't be afraid to walk away if you're not happy.



Look under the bonnet carefully

Arabian Nights and Days with the Amarok in Oman

By Jack Evans

Picture the scene: There's a two-tonne pick-up lodged in sand up to its axles, wheels spinning furiously while two people attempt to push it free. Welcome to Oman: The home of rocky valleys, dried-out riverbeds and – as we found – extremely deep sand dunes.

But let's take things back a little bit. Volkswagen wanted to showcase just what its Amarok pick-up – now featuring an even more powerful diesel engine – could do on some seriously difficult terrain, and this, as it happens, is what you find in Oman.

Day one would see us introduced to our trucks. Now, any pick-up looks good with plenty of off-road kit fitted to it, but the Amarok was exceptional. A snorkel, raised suspension and chunky all-surface tyres had been fitted to make the big VW more capable on awkward surfaces – and in truth it made the vehicle look seriously good.

Our first route would take in mostly motorways before leading up away from the sea at Fins and into the mountains. If you thought the UK was a hotbed for speed cameras, you need to go to Oman. There's a speed trap nearly every few miles on the motorway, and this means you're always pretty cautious about how quickly you're going.

The route quickly spikes up, heading into the Hajar Mountains. On tarmac, the Amarok remains predictably well refined, but it's on the loose gravel and dust of the mountain roads where it really shines. It manages to shimmy around and let you know that the surface is a little unstable, but it never feels like it's out of control.

As we arrived at the Salmah Plateau – our stopover point for the night – we were handed a pop-up tent, a sleeping bag and told to pick a rock-free spot on the ground. The surface was too hard to drive tent pegs into, so we ended up weighing the tents down with large boulders from nearby. Rough and ready, that's for sure, but it certainly reflected the ethos of the Amarok.

Our next day's driving would see us push further south into the country, heading towards the 1,000 Nights Camp in the middle of the desert.

The route was fringed at many points by wadis. These dried-out river beds are large and wide, and created by frequent torrents gushing down the mountains after heavy rainfall. We stop briefly in the middle of one as a guide tells us how many unsuspecting drivers leave their cars in the wadis and return after it's rained to find them completely washed away. Needless to say, we hurry onwards shortly afterwards.

After a quick stopover at midday we mount up once



The route for our tripto in long, dusty trails that snake through the desert

more and head towards the desert. Stopping at the small town of Al Mintarib on the outskirts, we drop the air pressure in the tyres. Lower tyres, after all, make for better traction on sand.

As we head out of the town, the tarmac quickly drops away and gives way to sand – lots and lots of sand.

Now, I'll happily admit that I haven't driven on sand before. Snow? Yes. Gravel? Forget about it. Sand, however, proved to be a new challenge.

Driving up the first incline, I got stuck. Wheels spinning, sending sand up into the air, there was little I could do to get moving. Thankfully, though, with a bit of pushing from some others in the group, I managed to get free.

After a few more successful dunes, a steeper incline appeared. I'd learnt by now that the best option was to hit the deeper sections as hard as possible – speed is a bit of an ally when it comes to sand driving, apparently.

Thankfully, the approach worked and the truck flew up the slope with little effort, though a large bump in the middle was – according to those stood watching – a result of the truck taking off from the ground. Maybe a little too much speed then...

At the top of the hill I leave the truck to have a look at the remaining Amaroks attempting the climb. Most make it to the top and move onwards, but some reach the summit and then immediately get stuck. Many get properly beached, and it takes a few hours to move them out.

By the time all the trucks are freed it's dark. Thankfully, our overnight stopover is in the middle of the dunes. The 1,000 Nights Camp proves to be the ideal place to park up after a long day.

The next day sees us rolling back to Muscat. The route takes in long, dusty trails that snake through the desert towards Al Mintarib. There, we reinflate the tyres and hit the tarmac.

After driving on sand for so long, firm ground seems strange – you're almost expecting it to shift around underneath you.

Arriving at our final hotel, I say goodbye to 'my' Amarok. With hundreds of miles covered and many difficult conditions conquered, it was a hard farewell. However, the big Volkswagen more than proved its worth, and showed that despite being comfortable and refined, it can more than take on the rough stuff.

Expect the unexpected out of town

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is urging drivers to pay extra attention on rural road journeys this summer. Although traffic levels are generally lighter, rural roads account for nearly 60% of all fatalities (a total of 943 in 2015, compared with 577 on urban roads).

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says: "Driving in the countryside is usually a great pleasure, with good views, quiet roads and a variety of interesting terrain.

"But a narrow, twisting road offers very little clue as to what might be round the next bend.

"That's why we're urging drivers to expect the unexpected and to make sure they have time and space to stop safely if necessary.

"What's round the corner on a rural road with restricted visibility?

"It could be another car or a motorcycle coming towards you too fast, a group of cyclists on a ride out, sheep or cattle crossing the road, a horse and rider, a wild animal, a slow-moving farm tractor...

"The point is that until you have perfect

sight of what's ahead, you need to be ready to anticipate what could be there.

"By adjusting your speed and your position accordingly, you're doing your bit to keep yourself and the other road users safe."

GEM has prepared a selection of simple driver tips to help improve rural road safety:

- Make sure you use any existing signage to help you.

Usual signs include a series of white chevron signs on a black background, indicating a sharp bend.

Slow down, even if the posted speed limit is 30 mph.

- The narrowness of country lanes means that passing places are sometimes provided into embankments or verges.

Be prepared to reverse into these if necessary.

- Stay safe by never exceeding the signed limit.

Country lanes are often used as a short cut or an escape from congested main roads.

Using them may actually be a longer way round to your destination leading you to be in a hurry. Slow down.



Be aware of what's around the corner

- Country lanes may be in a poor state of repair. At any sign of this be ready for potholes and other broken surfaces that can seriously damage your vehicle.

- Give horse riders a very slow and wide berth and keep your distance until it becomes safe to pull past.

Follow GEM on Twitter @MotoringAssist

Vauxhall is offering greater versatility with Combo Life



The Combo Life is predicted to arrive in showrooms later in the year

By James Parker

Vauxhall has entered the leisure activity vehicle segment with the Combo Life.

Available in either five- or seven-seat configurations, the **Combo Life** comes fitted with sliding doors designed to make it a practical option for larger families.

The rearmost seats are individual units too, and their design means that even those in the back have enough room to stretch out.

A variety of safety features have also been fitted to the **Combo Life**, with systems such as driver drowsiness alert, a head-up display and forward collision alert with pedestrian detection helping contribute to a safe overall driving experience.

Flank Guard, a new collision detection system fitted to the Combo Life, uses 12 sensors to monitor the extremities of the car. Should it detect that the vehicle

In addition, the Combo Life benefits from Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems for better smartphone integration, controlled via a central colour touchscreen.

The Combo Life will be offered with one of a



Entering the leisure sector

number of turbocharged petrol and diesel engines – though Vauxhall has yet to specify the exact list of units powering the car. All will be available with either a five- or six-speed manual gearbox, or an eight-speed automatic.

Thanks to a standard overall length of 4.4 metres – or 4.75 metres in the extended version – the Combo Life has a minimum 597 litres of boot storage, rising to 850 litres in the long wheelbase variant.

However, this rises to 2,126 litres in the regular Combo Life with the rear seats folded flat, or 2,693 in the longer model.

The Vauxhall Combo Life is predicted to arrive in showrooms later in the year, with full prices and specifications predicted to be announced a few months before it does so.

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Full prices and specifications are predicted to be announced shortly

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Top awards for Nissan Leaf and Micra

By James Parker

The European New Car Assessment Programme awarded the new Nissan Leaf with a stellar 5-star rating just a short time after the Nissan Micra won a major award.

The Leaf is the first car to be assessed against Euro NCAP's improved and extended protocols for 2018. The 2018 protocol sees the introduction of a raft of new tests which address key crash scenarios involving cars, pedestrians and now also the growing number of cyclists.

In these Euro NCAP tests, the Leaf earned a 93 per cent rating for adult safety and an 86 per cent rating for child protection. The safety rating is determined from a series of vehicle tests that, in a simplified way, reflect important real-life accident scenarios that could result in injuries.

Technology

The new Leaf 5-star rating reflects the advanced driver assistance systems packaged on the car. Technologies such as camera and radar feature extensively to provide benefits such as pedestrian recognition and form the basis of Nissan's acclaimed ProPILOT system for safer, more confident driving.

Gareth Dunsmore, electric vehicle director, Nissan Europe, explained: "The Euro NCAP announcement proves what we have known for a long time – that the new Nissan Leaf has exceptional safety standards and is a true pioneer in the EV space.

"This shows that our customers can fully trust our Nissan Intelligent Mobility vision, we



Winner of the Car of the Year accolade at the inaugural 2018 FirstCar awards, the Micra

are on a path to transform the way we drive and the way we live."

The announcement has been released just months after the Japan New Car Assessment Program also awarded the car the top 5-star grade following rigorous testing.

In earning the top rating, the Leaf scored 94.8 points out of a possible 100 for occupant safety in a collision.

The program is organized by Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the National Agency for Automotive Safety and Victims' Aid. More details on that announcement can be found here.

The Nissan Micra has won the 'Car of the Year' accolade at the inaugural 2018 FirstCar awards. Micra has historically been a popular choice of car for learner and first time drivers due to its affordable pricing and compact practicality.

The Nissan Micra is packed with technology and powered by a range of efficient and responsive engines to inspire a confident and fun drive, making it a great choice for anyone starting their driving career.

FirstCar aims to encourage learner drivers while they prepare for their driving test and supports young drivers to make informed decisions after they gain their licence. With road-safety education at the forefront of the agenda for FirstCar, Micra delivers plenty of safety equipment and driver aids such as Intelligent Emergency Braking with pedestrian recognition, Intelligent Lane Intervention, Lane Departure Warning and High Beam Assist as standard.

David Motton, FirstCar editor and chairman of the judging panel, said: "You couldn't want for a better first car than the Micra."

"With low insurance group ratings and a range of efficient engines, the Nissan is



The new Nissan Leaf achieved a 5-star rating in NCAP awards

affordable to run. It's also equipped with the kind of safety features you'd expect of a much bigger and more expensive car.

"It's not just a safe and sensible choice. With a huge range of interior and exterior finishes, new drivers can really express themselves when specifying the car."

Alex Smith, managing director of Nissan GB, commented: "The Micra clearly ticks plenty of boxes for learner and young drivers. With advanced driver assistance systems as standard, over 100 personalisation

combinations, the unique BOSE Personal sound system and low tax and fuel costs, it's clear why Micra has been and will continue to be a logical and fun choice for younger drivers."

With emissions as low as 85g/km, fuel economy of up to 88.3 mpg and prices starting from just £12,400, the new Nissan Micra is unsurprisingly popular with younger drivers and represents a perfect balance of urban performance and low running costs.

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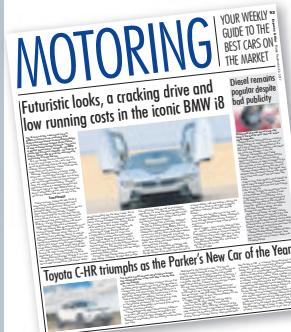
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FreeAds

IT'S
FREE
IT'S
EASY

For items up to £250

VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878

8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays



Online

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk



In person

At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

Funeral Directors

J.R. JONES
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

**HOPCRAFTS LOW COST
FAMILY FUNERAL & MEMORIALS**
Inscriptions, Plaques
Buy direct from our
Factory Shop.

Funerals: Adam 01902 420452
Headstones: Norah 01902 714530
or Dudley, Laura 01384 263452
www.hopcraft-funerals.co.uk
'Proudly independent'

Lost & Found

LOST PASSPORT—in Wolverhampton on April 10, 2018. Any information contact 07593 363147.

1
Family

Elderly & Disabled

Capitol Mobility Showroom
located in Bath St, Bilston next to
Morrisons with FREE parking

MOTABILITY DEALER
OVER 25 YEARS OF RELIABLE SALES AND
SERVICES OF NEW AND USED MOBILITY
EQUIPMENT, STAIRLIFTS AND ADAPTIONS,
FREE HOME DEMONSTRATIONS.

01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

MOBILITY SCOOTERS WANTED.
Any condition working or not.
Call 07967 003600.

ROMA MOBILITY SCOOTER as
new, used once, dismantles to fit into
boot. £400. Please call 01902 326968.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

Jewellery & Watches

GOLD DIAMOND RING 1 carat
diamond, never worn with certificate,
cluster stone ring. £500.00
07853 573388.

2
Leisure
Time

Car Boot Sales

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sunday
6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on
A449 DY6 0AA. 077106490
www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

**BIGGEST SATURDAY
BOOTSALe**
Rudge Heath by Royal Oak Pub,
WV6 7EE
between Wolverhampton and
Bridgnorth
07890 267 041

**BIGGEST BANK
HOLIDAY MONDAY
BOOTSALe**
B4176 Rabbit Run by TFM
Between Dudley - Telford WV15 5LS
07890 267 041

Caravans Wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect
asap. Cash paid. Caravan wanted.
01902 717000. Tel 01902 717000.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN
Motorhome for you and get the best
possible price. Severn Valley Leisure,
DY8 4HP. 01384 390183
www.severnvalleyleisure.com

CARAVAN for sale. North Wales,
must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick
sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.

**CARAVANS/
Motorhomes**

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
www.bpcar.co.uk 01584823433.

CARAVAN for sale. North Wales,
must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick
sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.

COMPASS VENTURE

544
2010. 4-berth.

Fixed bed. Sunroof.

All mod cons.

Awning plus winter cover.

Many extras.

Excellent condition.

£7,200.

07759 205730.

**LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER
CHAIRS 70% OFF
DISPLAY MODELS**
EG GUVINR
RECLINER
WINE
WAS £999
NOW £299

**100'S OF LEATHER & FABRIC SOFAS, CORNER SUITES
AND RECLINER SUITES - MANY HALF PRICE**

Open Everyday 10am-5.30pm OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday

Apartments

Disabled Facilities

Pet Friendly

01278 794111

www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED

to check with any Advertisers

that their holiday costs are fully

covered by a recognised bonding or

insurance scheme.

Music Shop

CONCERTINA WANTED

By Musician.
Please call 01902 742937.

RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA

wanted & sold 50s -90s+ record

shop wolves wv1 07760168972

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

To sell items upto £250.

Online at

bookanad.

expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique Fairs

**ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS
VINTAGE FAIR**

CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET,

HALESOWEN, B63 3AT

FRIDAY 11TH MAY

8:30 AM - 3 PM

07783 680 627

FREE ADMISSION

Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE
REMINDED**

That the Business

Advertisements(Disclosure)

Order of 1977 requires that

advertisements must clearly

differentiate between Private

and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED

Sheets. New, £8 can deliver.

Also box, profile & PVC/polycarb.

David Button on 07834 489558.

KITCHEN AID MIXER Good condition

plus ice cream mixer, never

used £200.

01902 827074.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-

tisement today? We would respect-

fully remind advertisers that it is

the responsibility of the publisher

of any mistakes or inac-

curacies on the first day of publica-

tion.

what's on

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**

AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99

01902 858191 • 01384 429166

01543 439095 • 01922 716029

AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST

Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV

wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT

registered. Fully insured. For a free

quote call 07583 320318.

Fencing

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT
I NEEDED"**

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT
I NEEDED"**

**For great business
results call**

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-

view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials

from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP

DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

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Brought to you by **Express & Star**

01902 319 191

01902 317878 | bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £795
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/fit. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas. **J&E HEATING**
01902 562664 07969 687832

GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPS
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Guttering

Guttering & Roofing **25% OFF**
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/soffits, UPVC washdowns, Free quotes, 8am-8pm 01902 722447

Handyman Services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

LOCK & CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, small job specialist. Call 01902 683100 or 07934 468664.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172341 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

Landscaping

JD's Landscaping and Building
Bricklaying and all paving work
Fencing and gates
Conservatory and porch bases
FREE QUOTES
Call John 01384 326405 or 07719 807564

Painters/Decorators

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly. Professional
Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Painters/Decorators



Express & Star
DECORATORS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)

Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Painters/Decorators



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OVEN CLEANERS!
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(T&Cs Apply)

Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189 / 07904 915016

Grinsells Skip Hire LTD
Mini, Midi, Maxi, Large Skips.
Monday to Friday.
Saturday half day.
0121 555 6060

BOBS HOME INTERIORS
Wall and floor Tiling
Bathrooms Fitted
KITCHEN FITTING
bob2granger@gmail.com
07480 141537
www.bobshomeinteriors.co.uk

Upholstery

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

Gary Downes -
Bilston Upholstery
For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/springs/caravans/pubs/clubs/antiques. 01902 689644 / 07817 642980.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

BILL - TV Link
For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4
Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAVAPOO PUPPIES available, ready to leave, health checked, 01630 638369. 07989 116805.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk

Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
gtwolverhampton.co.uk

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**
www.oakwood-homebuyers.com



Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.



THREE BED HOUSE

In the country.
In Normandy.
Approx two acres.
£147,000
Cash Buyers Only
Phone 07752 976181.

7
Jobs

Drivers

DRIVERS REQUIRED Tipton area
Class 2 and 7.5 tonne
Tel 07961 116949

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR

****Cheaper than ebay!**

ONLY £9.99



FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN YOUR LOCAL EXPRESS & STAR.

- ✓ No hidden costs
- ✓ Buyer collects
- ✓ No postage or returns
- ✓ Local sellers to local people
- ✓ It's that simple!!

Call us on 01902 317878
or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

Private advertisers only

No pets, livestock, property or personals

**Ebay price checked 2/1/18

VAN DRIVER required for delivery of household furniture 30 hrs p.w. Based Kingswinford - to cover West Midlands. Must have clear driving licence. Email: recruitment@kwdltd.com or call 07484 386068

Employment Wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER requires employment, any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

HII I AM looking for a job for office cleaning. If you are local please call me on 07900 037685.

RETIRING TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER

Requires casual / part time work.

Own van / tools.

Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

SEMI RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FCA

Seeks part time accountancy / bookkeeping.

Halesowen and surrounding areas.

07860 357143.

Nursing & Carers

CARE ASSISTANTS required for days, @ Sedgley Care Home. Must have NVQ 2. Call 07432 619221.

Full Time General

 King Charles I School
Comberton Road
Kidderminster DY10 1XA
Tel: 01562 512880

CARETAKER

We are seeking to appoint a caretaker to join our busy site team to assist the site manager in the caretaking duties required to provide an efficient and safe service to the school; ensure that a high level of security is maintained in school in order to protect its buildings and resources; and maintain a clean, attractive, secure and welcoming site through a process of regular cleaning and routine and scheduled maintenance of buildings, grounds, fixtures and fittings. Salary scale 4 (point range 18 to 21). The post is for 37 hours per week, term time weekdays only and the following shift patterns are likely to be the working patterns:

• Week 1: 10.30pm until 6.30pm • Week 2: 8.00am until 4.00pm • Week 3: 6.00am until 2.00pm

These include 30 minutes for lunch each day, which could be negotiated.

King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Tuesday 8th May 2018. We intend to interview on Monday 14th May 2018.

 King Charles I School
Comberton Road
Kidderminster DY10 1XA
Tel: 01562 512880

EXAMINATIONS OFFICER

We are seeking to appoint an examinations officer to organise and administer all aspects of internal and external examinations within the school. The post has annualised hours of 1443 per annum and is for term time weeks only plus the school training days (pro rata) and five other days in August for GCSE and A Level results. The working pattern is likely to be 37 hours a week but a flexible approach to hours will be needed due to the nature of the post. Salary scale £25 (point range 18 to 25).

King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Monday 30th April. We intend to interview on Wednesday 2nd May. However, early applications are encouraged as we reserve the right to interview early for this post should a suitable candidate apply.

KING CHARLES I SCHOOL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500



FIAT 500 1.2

2009, MOT Nov 2018, 70k, full service including cambelt, e/w, Cat N due to scuff on bumper fully repaired, great condition in and out, drives excellent.

£2,950 ono.
07964 855222.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE

Blue, blue hood, tan leather interior, New cam belt and water pump fitted. MoT'd, well maintained. Very low mileage £2,495. 07948 146611.



FORD B-MAX

Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388 engine, 10,000 miles, silver metallic, black roof, black alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio / CD, aircon, front fog lights, electric window, sliding back doors, Immaculate condition.

£8,200
07788 684373.

FOR A QUICK SALE

FORD FUSION 1.4 PETROL

2006, metallic blue, long MoT, fsh, alloy wheels, very low mileage 8,400, electric mirrors / electric front windows, PAS. Excellent condition, Reduced for quick sale £4,000 ono.
07792 163719.

MUST BE SEEN

JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Classic saloon, November 2005, manual, MOT February 2019, 47,400 miles, very economical, alloy wheels; very good condition.

£2,595 o.n.o.
01384 291853.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDI

06, 5dr hatchback, diesel car 1.4, good clean car inside and out, mileage 129,000 miles, MOT to October 2018.

Any trial welcome.
£875. o.n.o.
01902 653442.

MNA Media

DISTRIBUTION & LEAFLET SALES ASSISTANT

MNA Media are looking for a Distribution & Leaflet Sales Assistant to join our Xpress Distribution team based at Wolverhampton.

The purpose of this role is to assist in the free distribution operation of all free printed MNA titles, including leaflet sales, to maximise all revenue and sales opportunities. The role will also ensure the effective organisation and administration, through third party distributors, of all free letterbox distribution activity, in line with current ABC rules. Additionally, there is a focus on continually exploiting new opportunities and exploring new markets.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant must possess a full current driving licence as travel to customer sites is required, a company car will be provided. As this is a customer facing role excellent communication and customer service skills are required. A good working knowledge of all Microsoft products is essential.

The position is full time, 37.5 hours per week, working Monday-Friday.

If you would like to be considered for this role please send your CV and covering letter to:

HR Department, Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Or by e-mail to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

Closing date: 7th May 2018.

RENAULT MODUS

LOOK

RENAULT MODUS

four door car, 2004, 9 months Mot, very good condition,

1461cc, diesel.

£425 ono.

01952 764362

or

07913 408691.

RARE CAR

VAUXHALL ASTRA BERTONE COUPE 2.2 AUTO

54 plate, 31,700 miles, silver, fsh, MoT Sept, £1,200.

01902 894337 or 01746 761861.

BARGAIN

FORD FUSION 3 1600 PETROL

52 reg, alloys, MoT till January 2019, good runner and condition. £600 ono.
07470 511649.

LOW MILEAGE

FORD KA

02 reg, good condition, good runner, 42,000 miles, many extras, £350.
07390 515087.

BARGAIN

FORD KA

06, 12 months MoT, no advisories, good all round condition and good runner. £550 ono.
01384 251328 / 07972 169554.

LOW MILEAGE

VAUXHALL CORSA B

T Reg, one owner from new, FSH, 12 months MoT. First to see will buy.

£695.
07913 981460.

LOW MILEAGE

VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE

1.4, 07 reg, bright silver, 66,000 miles, full MoT, CD, electric windows, 5-dr, very clean car.

Runs and drives as it should.

£1,375 ono.
07961 669911.

Classic Cars

LEXUS 400LS

1994 Gold badge model, two owners, main dealer service history, full MoT, excellent, built as Japanese Rolls Royce, an absolute joy.

£2,450.
Shropshire
01902 844362
07503 186002.

Commercial Vehicles

VAUXHALL COMBO VAN

1700 CDTI, 57 reg, diesel, MoT till February 2019, good runner and condition.

£1,250.
07470 511649.

Driving Tuition

AMAZING OFFER

5 lessons £50. 10 lessons £100. £21 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

Scrap Vehicles

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts

available at all times

MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE

WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best

Prices Paid ELV Registered

Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or

0121 557 0800 or

Oldbury Area.

BETTER PRICE

for scrap or damaged cars and

commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD

Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or

70553. Evenings 75397.

DYS 3JZ.

OUR ADVERTISERS

are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy

scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!

Ring for quotes

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328

07972 169554

anytime

Spares/Parts

WINTER SALE Thule Roof Bars and Spares, Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans

07903 549849

buyer will call

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for a "Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)

An application for a Premises Licence has been made to Dudley Borough Council in respect of premises known as The Laurel Tree of 349 Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 1SD. The following Statement of Relevant Licensable Activities or Relevant Qualifying Club Activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises:

The intention to re-open the premises as a draft ale bar/lounge serving a varied selection of premises Ales, Lagers and Ciders with light background music. There will be no access to the rear of the new premises with only the draft lounge open and licensed.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday except public holidays. An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between 11/4/2018 and 8/5/2018 to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

10 Personals

Personal

A GOOD LOOKING BRITISH INDIAN MAN

Looking to meet single lady (any nationality) for holidays, nights in/out and general company.

GENUINE replies only.

All replies answered.

Box Number P21167,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WEALTHY GENT

60's

Own house and car.

WLTM lady 50-70 for friendship / relationship.

Maybe long term.

Likes all usual social activities and much more.

Box Number P21168,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG AT HEART LADY 58

Many interests, meals out,

country pubs and walks WLTM

no smoking genuine gentleman

aged 56 - 66 for evenings and days out, for friendship and possible relationship.

Box Number P21170,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG AT HEART LADY 58

Many interests, meals out,

</

Coady: Players will miss Premier derby

WOLVES captain Conor Coady says winning the Championship is 'the best feeling in the world' – but admits he would miss the atmosphere of a derby should no West Midlands rivals join them in the Premier League.

The 25-year-old admits the players are 'little bit disappointed' there would be no Black Country derby if the Baggies are relegated.

Coady, speaking as a guest of BBC Radio Merseyside in his home city of Liverpool, said: "It's the best feeling in the world (to be champions), to get promoted that weekend. But to beat Bolton 4-0 knowing we'd already been promoted, and the performance the boys put in just shows the character they've got."

But he added he would have loved to take on Black Country rivals Albion. "You want to play West Brom, as a Wolves player, as a Wolves fan," he said.

"They all want to play West Brom, we really do."

"We want to play them and experience that atmosphere because we all know what it can be like."

Heart rules head to keep Heathens racing

CRADLEY Heathens bosses have revealed how they let the heart rule the head to keep the club in action this season.

Club director Nigel Pearson told a packed fans forum organised by the Heathens Supporters Trust how they were within a whisker of closing last October after eight seasons at National League level.

No new home track, fewer dates available at Wolverhampton and financial losses when staging home meetings at Birmingham left the club in crisis. But Pearson said: "My head told me to close the club and I think the same applied to my colleagues. However, the heart told me different."

"We still have a loyal fanbase and fantastic support from Dean and Adam Bridge at Motor Market, plus the tremendous partnership with Dr Rod Brooks. The last three seasons have been tough, the fact is when we have to host meetings away from Monmore it doesn't work financially."

Pearson also answered fans' questions on the long term and whether the management were still committed to a new track.

Footballers hoping to score with charity

TWO brothers hope a five-a-side football tournament will prove a winner for charity. Gurcharan and Herjinder Bhujhangy, of Halesowen, are organising the tournament in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

It takes place at Goals, Cakemore Road, Blackheath, on Saturday, June 3.

Teams can enter a maximum of seven players per team, with adult teams costing £70 and children's teams at £30. Register at Goals on 0121 561 3000 or via Gurcharan on 07762 521584 before May 21.

This is the third time the brothers have organised the annual event for the BHF. The fundraising total for 2017 was £1,075. They originally supported the BHF as a result of losing their father Dalbir Khanpur Bhujhangy, aged 59, as a result of heart failure in November 2008. He was part of the legendary Bhujhangy bhangra group, formed in Smethwick in 1967. Tragically, the brothers have since also lost a friend, Harman Dhami, 37.

Gurcharan said: "This football tournament is a tribute to these two great men."



Phil Parkes, Willie Carr and Steve Kindon meet up again



Colin Brazier and Mel Eves sign shirts

Former star Eves: Wolves golden days here again

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

"It is really heart-warming to see as a Wolves fan that we are back in the Premier League."

WOLVES legend Mel Eves says this season has been 'one of the best' in recent years after the club won the Championship title and promotion to the Premier League.

The former striker, who netted 44 league goals for the club during a nine-year spell in which he played 180 games, declared the football under Nuno Espirito Santo a joy to watch this season.

Wolves were crowned the Championship winners last Saturday after thrashing Bolton 4-0.

Eves spoke during the 30th anniversary dinner of the Wolves Former Players' Association at Molineux on April 19.

Shrewd

Eves, who later represented the likes of Sheffield United and Gillingham, said: "It has been an absolute joy this season to watch the football on show."

"It has been one of the best seasons that I think most people can remember, certainly since the team were doing really well."

"Under Mick McCarthy we did well but we were really surviving. We weren't expected to do nothing more than be OK."

"The Fosun group, they mean business. But you also have to be very shrewd in the players that you bring in, the manager you bring in, and the way you



Kenny Hibbitt, Derek Parkin and Norman Bell at the 30th anniversary dinner

integrate everything and get everyone singing off the same hymn sheet."

"From the original 1950s team, Wolves were the best in Europe let alone this country."

"That is why Wolves have got their heritage and why older guys, like me and generations gone by, appreciate Wolves are a big club."

"Make no mistake about it, they are a big club."

"It is really heart-warming to see as a Wolves fan that we are back in the Premier League."

"Congratulations to everyone involved at Wolves from the top down."

"The manager Nuno, the fans love him, everyone loves him."

Former Wolves players turned out in force for the special event.

Among them was former defender Jody Craddock, an artist who has painted portraits of the current

players, which have been used on the covers of match day programmes.

Craddock said: "It is brilliant to come along, I enjoy catching up with all the old players."

"It has been a tremendous season and we have played some superb football."

"It is nice to be involved in such a fantastic season. When I started (my artwork) I didn't realise we would get promoted but it has worked out fantastic. To be asked to do it is an honour."

"That will be part of history now forever. It is nice for me as an artist and an ex-player."

Former goalkeeper Phil Parkes said: "It is great to be here, all the lads get back together."

"It has been a different type of football this past season."

"What the club have done this season has been fantastic."

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Blue hoops team takes on Masters

DUDLEY Kingswinford athletes rubbed shoulders, at least on the start line, with some top quality runners from the older age groups, taking part in the British National Masters Road Relays Championships at Sutton Park, restricted to athletes aged over 35.

Teams from all over the country were looking to claim national medals. The blue hoops fielded two men's teams and were off the blocks just after noon in the M55 category with a team of three covering the 5k course. Mark Homer was first away, coming home in 19th place in 20.23. Graham Wildgoose finished in 22.14 putting the club in 20th. Pete Hood made up three places bringing the club home in 21.05 and a final finishing position of 17th and an overall time of 1.03.42 behind medallists South London Harriers, Herne Hill and Cambslangu.

Although the club had entered a complete M35s team, with some having to run down an age group to make up the numbers, a couple of late drop outs due to illness and injury meant the club could only field four runners where six were required. Dave Norman led the team off, running 19.10 over the 5k course placing the club in 31st position.

Darran Bishop maintained their position in 19.33, Steve Parr again placed the club in 31st, in 21.49 and John Andrews completed DK's incomplete team, dropping to 33rd, in 25.55. Without a fifth and sixth runner they were left to watch the final two legs with Salford Harriers claiming victory from Thames Hare & Hounds and Tipton Harriers.

Yeltz ease to final game win over fellow strugglers

Halesowen 2 Stalybridge Celtic 0 HALESWEN eased to a two-goal victory as the two sides immediately above the bottom met in the final game of a difficult season.

The weary visitors had played nine games in the previous fortnight as Steve Burr ended his reign as Celtic manager with another defeat.

Halesowen had the better of the first half but were unable to break the deadlock. Little was seen from Celtic although Jake Charles crossed from the left in the 26th minute and Harrison Holgate blasted the loose ball over.

After a slow start to the second period, Lee Hughes was penalised after handling the ball into the net.

The Yeltz finally grabbed a 57th minute lead when Hughes played a ball into the danger area and the ball was knocked back for super-sub Roland Agbor to find the bottom corner.

Ali powered a 67th minute header home directly from Jack Kelly's corner to make it 2-0.

Later on, Agbor fired a 75th minute low shot wide.

A winning Double for racing pair



The team celebrates. Alex James Photography

IT was business as usual for the Double Two Racing boys – minus some of the occasional drama – as the team raced to another victory.

Black Country pair Pete Wright and Martin Siviter made it back-to-back wins after two rounds of the No Limits Endurance championship at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire.

Wright, from Tividale, started seventh on the grid but first in the Club 600 class in the three-hour race. A third of the way into his stint, Wright was passed by eventual National 600 winners Pertemps Racing. Sponsorship team Track

Prep Racing pulled off a cracking 20-second pit stop and sent Siviter, from Blackheath, on his way to chase down Pertemps' Colin Norris.

Siviter was holding first in the Club 600 class by two laps, and sitting third in National 600 while catching Pertemps every lap but peeled into pit lane to send Wright out for his second stint.

The Track Prep team cut the pit stop time down to 17 seconds to send Siviter on his way in spitting rain. His lap times started picking up and he bought the team home first in Club 600, third in National 600 and ninth overall.

LEON TAKES THE HONOURS

GLASSBOYS' veteran Leon Broadhurst swept the boards at Stourbridge FC's end of season presentation.

The long-serving midfielder, who has notched up 730 games in Glassboys colours, was the club's top scorer with 19 goals, and at Saturday's ceremony, which followed a 2-1 win over play-off hopefuls Warrington, Broadhurst took home a clutch of awards.

He was named Players' Player of the Year; Manager's Player of the Year; the Committee/Directors Player of the Year (in memory of Alan Pitt); Supporters' Player of the Year and also picked up the award for most 'Man of the Match' wins (in memory of Steve Hickman). Karl Clifton won the 'Clubman of the Year' award for his efforts behind the scenes.

Costly

Meanwhile, boss Gary Hackett was left to rue a number of costly late goals over the season as Glassboys finished 12th in the Evo-Stik Premier, although they could still lift the Birmingham Senior Cup. They take on Huddersfield Town in the final at St Andrew's next Tuesday.

Hackett said: "If we hadn't conceded those goals we would probably be looking at 10 or 15 points more and we would have been around the play-offs."

On Saturday, Stourbridge came from behind after Joseph Piggott's opener to win with goals from Broadhurst and Luke Benbow.

Former Walsall defender Darryl Westlake and youth team captain Jake Evans have signed new contracts for 2018/19.

Westlake, 27, is just four shy of a century of games for Glassboys. Evans has progressed to make five first-team appearances off the bench.

Lions roar to cup triumph



Sedgley White Lion under-9s have won the league cup for their group

A JUNIOR football team has continued to beat the odds, being crowned league cup champions of their group in the Stourbridge & District Youth League.

Sedgley White Lion under-9s will be presented with their trophy in June.

However, at the start of the season, the players were without a pitch when Wolverhampton Council refused permission to use Bantock Park. Woodfield School agreed to accommodate the side and immediate success followed.

They made such an impact that bosses were forced to reshuffle the league mid-season, with the Lions moving up from the fifth to the first division.

Last weekend the league cup was secured and a club spokesman said: "The boys have made such an achievement in their very successful eight months together as a team."

"All of the parents are extremely proud of the hard work the boys and their coaches Paul Shields and Paul Timmins have put in."



Golden memories for ex-Wolves players

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Home tie for play-offs in DK's hands

Melbourne 14 DK 19

At the end of the game at Melbourne it was very much a case of job done. DK go into their last league game against Lutterworth with the possibility of a home play-off tie still within their reach.

Melbourne, meanwhile, needed at least a single point to maintain their points difference advantage over Rugby Lions in the battle to avoid the drop.

The opening score came on the half hour through Melbourne's Euan Holden, which he then converted, and 7-0 was the score at the break.

Good play saw left winger Sam Hancock touch down for a second try, Holden converted and the hosts' led 14-0.

Into the final quarter, DK still trailed by 14 points, but they were now maintaining a significant territorial advantage. From a line out on the left wing the DK forwards worked the ball in front of the Melbourne posts, and Jordan Brookes appeared from the break down drove hard and made the line, with Sam Vaughan adding the extras.

Well into the final quarter of the game and DK were a man up due to a Melbourne yellow card. From a scrum, Tommy Walker headed in for a try out wide on the right wing and Nic Adams made it 14-all.

Callum Nicholls picked up and made a diagonal run, carrying the defenders over the line with him for the final try. The conversion was missed but the whistle went and DK had won.

Melbourne had achieved their survival and DK still have the home play-off in their own hands against Lutterworth this weekend.

Heathens off but now back on track

CRADLEY Heathens are back in action next week.

The Heathens race against Stoke Potters in the National Trophy at Monmore Green, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, at 7.30pm.

It is the side's first meeting of the season after Sunday's National Trophy fixture against Coventry at Leicester was postponed due to a waterlogged track.

A new date for the fixture is to be confirmed.

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★★★

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